



Senator Diane Larson, Chair
Senate House Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Larson:

The Fargo Public Library Board and Administration oppose Senate Bill No. 2123 due to the potential unintentional impacts on the access to materials from the libraries in North Dakota and the disruptions to library services it would cause. The language in the bill is extremely broad and would potentially criminalize library staff.

The Fargo Public Library Board opposes censorship in any form regardless of the motivations of the censor. The Fargo Public Library Board affirms the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read declaration.

It is essential that Senate Bill No. 2123 be prevented from being made law in order for libraries in North Dakota to continue to do their first amendment duties for the communities they serve. We urge Senate members to do their constitutional duty and prevent North Dakota from becoming a state that censors its public libraries.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carlos Hawley President, Fargo Public Library Board
Ms. Amy Ouren, Vice President, Fargo Public Library Board
Ms. Kristen Schipper Library Board Member, Fargo Public Library
Ms. Wanda Mengelkoch Library Board Member, Fargo Public Library
Ms. Jenna Reno Library Board Member, Fargo Public Library
Dr. Carrie Peterson Library Board Member, Fargo Public Library
Ms. Hannah James Library Board Member, Fargo Public Library
Timothy S. Dirks, MLIS, MPA Director, Fargo Public Library