



North Dakota Library Association

*Established 1906*

February 13, 2023

Chairman Larson and the Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kerrienne Boetcher and I am writing as the President of the North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) to voice opposition to the proposed changes presented in SB 2360.

We do not believe that this bill accurately reflects safeguards that are already in place. Public schools and libraries in North Dakota that receive federal funding are required under the Children Internet Protection Act (CIPA) to have filters in place in the school or library. These filters may be lifted for an adult who needs access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

With this Act, many schools and libraries have internet policies already in place including acceptable use policies. I firmly believe that children need to learn to navigate online databases and evaluate resources to prepare for success later in life. Options are available for home devices and phones for parents to decide if they would like to filter for their child.

There have been claims from out-of-state organizations such as MassResistance.org, The Heritage Defenders, The Freedom Press Group, and Moms for Liberty, that individuals have found unsuitable materials in databases. However, database staff and librarians have been unable to recreate these searches or find the materials within the database itself.

This bill allows for the prosecution of school district, state agency, public library, or public school employees and changes the definition of obscenity. This definition has been address on the federal level multiple times before now.

I urge you to consider voting against the proposed changes and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerrienne Boetcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kerrienne Boetcher  
President of the North Dakota Library Association  
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