

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My Name is Susan Draper and I reside in District 1 in Williston ND. I have two children that attend Williston High School. I am asking that you please render a DO Pass on Senate Bill SB 2360

Number 7 on the American Library Association's Library Bill of rights states that: "All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information". ALL ages, meaning that preschooler or kindergartener can have access to a book that contains pictures, or written verbiage about sexual content, material regarding cutting, drug use, violence toward women, children, and authoritative figures.

Can you imagine if the movie industry had the same philosophy and said "No matter the age, all kids should be able to see any movie they want. And parents, need to monitor your kids but you don't have the right to protect other kids from porn, violence, drug use and profanity only be concerned about your kids." The most vulnerable children would be exposed to this material more than they already are.

The motion picture industry is not required to rate their movies, they choose to, because they chose to inform parents and have been doing so since 1968. To quote their website, “the film rating system provides parents with the information needed to determine if a film is appropriate for their children.” Their board comprised of an independent group of parents. Seems like rating books would also be a good idea, so parents could be informed as to what kind of books their kids are reading. But the ALA doesn’t support a rating system. They do not think it is appropriate to add rating.

“Because these rating systems are devised by private groups using subjective and changing criteria to advise people of suitability or content of the materials. It is the library’s responsibility to prevent the imposition or endorsement of private rating systems. Including such ratings in the bibliographic record, library records, and other library-authored finding aids would predispose people’s attitudes toward the material and thus violated the Library Bill of Rights” (again not a legal document but a statement of principles)

There is currently not an authoritative rating system regarding books that are allowed in schools and certain parts of the public libraries that minors have access too. A parent rating system, called [booklooks.org](http://booklooks.org) has been created for parents to use to help monitor material in books that they come across or hear about. This is not a well-known source in our country as this organization is still in the start up phase of their business. Nor does it have any teeth in the rating it provides parents.

Here is a statement from Booklooks.org

"We are concerned parents who have been frustrated by the lack of resource material for content-based information regarding books accessible to children and young adults.

We make no money and seek no recognition in our efforts. We believe sunlight is the best disinfectant and parents should have the information at their disposal to make informed decisions about the content their children consume.

We are not affiliated with any other groups, but we do support several groups by letting them use our materials and by taking suggestions for what we should review. If you would like to use or distribute our materials, or have books you'd like for us to take a look at, please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Just like the movie industry, where the rating system is NOT determines by the motion picture association, directors, actors, or anyone else that is working in that industry, so as to be unbiased and fair, they have chosen parents, just parents to make up that board. Booklooks have guidelines to follow. I have included the rating system in your packet. They have set guidelines for each rating system so the people rating the books have specific content to look for not just deciding on their own. Just like movie ratings have guidelines to follow.**

With sex trafficking at an all-time high, and demand for children being sexually exploited at an all-time high, I wonder if by normalizing sex the children brought into these situations are forgetting what is right and wrong. When children read about situations sometimes, they relate, but other times they don't and begin to think this behavior is normal. Why do you think porn is

so negative, its because people don't normally do what is seen on television, read in books or viewed in magazines.

While researching the content in some of the Williston Libraries one of us had a student conduct an experiment and type the title To Kill a Mockingbird in the chrome book browser. The student was unable to do the search because of the boundaries that are place in the web internet at the school.

Children are bombarded with the internet, televisions, programs and digital devises that access even the simplest of sexual material. Shouldn't there be one place that they can be protected from this material?