

February 14, 2023

Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing as a mother and a North Dakota citizen who is concerned about the trend towards normalizing childhood exposure to sexual materials at a younger and younger age.

The argument has been made by some of the opposition that the Supreme Court has already defined obscenity, and that SB2360 is at best unnecessary and at worst more restrictive. Federal guidelines are designed to be suitable for the entire country, but what is wrong with our state further defining terms so that our century code suits the people who live here and match our standards for safety? I have no problem with North Dakota setting a higher standard when it comes to the safety of our children's hearts and minds.

Some claim that there is nothing obscene available in North Dakota libraries, and that this bill is unnecessary. As with many things, culture changes at a different rate in different areas, but it eventually affects them all. We would never take such a laidback "wait and see" approach with our families if we knew that a threat was headed our direction. We would address the threat and prepare in advance to protect our families from harm. That is what this bill does. Those of us who are paying attention to what is occurring on a global scale understand that it is just a matter of time before the pressure will be applied here to expose children to inappropriate content. Multiple parents I have spoken to have already had these situations arise in ND communities.

We know that books are being written for children to introduce them to mature concepts that are far beyond their ability to comprehend. While I agree that it is a parent's primary responsibility to protect their children from exposure to such content, libraries and schools have insisted that they are safe spaces for children, and therefore bear the responsibility of protecting them as well.

Please support SB2360.

Brittany Boehm