

I am respectfully submitting written testimony in opposition to SB 2307. Public Libraries in North Dakota are governed by a library board, consisting of citizens of the service area. The library director is responsible to this local citizen board. The director of the library, under the supervision of the library board, selects materials based on the collection development policy of the library and the needs of the community. The library also has a Reconsideration of Materials process allowing patrons to request materials be reconsidered. SB 2307 aims to take away local control of libraries which are mainly funded by local money. Public Libraries in North Dakota are already, by law, restricted in "Promoting obscenity to minors" 12.1.27.1-02

Senate Bill 2307 is redundant. Parents/guardians are responsible for the media content their children are exposed to. Every child with a smartphone or other device has the potential of exposure to more obscene materials than all the public library collections in North Dakota combined. In my nearly 40 decades as a professional librarian I am concerned that morality legislation is trying to terrorize library workers who have always had the goal of increasing literacy in children, providing citizens with a safe space to pursue their interests and gain credible information.

Thank you.

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