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March 14, 2025

To the 69th Legislative Assembly:

On behalf of the Lake Region Public Library in Devils Lake and myself as a taxpayer, mother, and North Dakota citizen, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 2307. There are many issues with this bill, including vague and unenforceable language, opening libraries to out-of-state individuals and groups that may target specific audiences and subject matter, and, most importantly, it does the opposite of what is intended: it removes local control, not grants it.

State's Attorneys reviewing library books for obscenity is not only a gross overreach of government control, but it is an irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. Their salaries are spent doing far more important things than vetting materials that have already gone through several levels of review and scrutiny by trained library professionals before they even hit library shelves.

I speak from a public library point of view, not to mention the school districts who utilize online databases on a far more regular basis. I would refer you to Jason Bedsaul's testimony, the Director of ODIN, numbers 36441-36443, which gives a fiscal estimate to the cost it would take to filter the electronic materials available in schools and libraries. This price tag of more than \$1.1 million cannot be shouldered by libraries, who are already funded by property taxes. Where, then, will this money come from?

Library usage across North Dakota has only increased in the past few years, and will most likely continue to do so. Passage of this bill will drastically alter the landscape of libraries in North Dakota to the detriment of our residents by restricting First Amendment freedoms of access to information.

Please, do not pass SB 2307.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maddie Sharpe".

Maddie Sharpe
Library Director