

House Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 18, 2025
SB 2307- Testimony in Opposition

Committee Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Laci Heironimus, and I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 2307. I oppose this bill as it aims to limit what books and resources our public libraries can offer our communities.

I am a librarian at Hazen Public Library. Our beautiful public library was once the old train depot in Hazen. As you can imagine, it is not a very large building. We have different sections, such as children's, teen, and adults, however the part of the bill that states "not easily accessible to children" is incredibly vague and will create an immense hardship for our libraries, especially our libraries in small rural communities. We do not have the facilities or the budget to wall off and wholly separate sections. Being unable to do so puts us in danger of a Class B misdemeanor, as well as putting our funding in danger.

I encourage you, Committee Chair and members of the Committee, to visit your local libraries in person. You will see how libraries and librarians are not out to "groom" children as we have coarsely been told by representatives. We already have policies in place as well as internet safety measures. Children will see more offensive images on their own phones, computers, and televisions than they will ever get in their public library. I believe this all started from one certain book in one library, but instead of focusing on a solution for that one book, we are all being lumped together for "containing offensive explicit materials." This is why I am encouraging you all to visit the different libraries of your state so that you may see how this bill would create an impossible, tremendous, and unnecessary burden.

I am sure you will receive many more passionate testimonies in opposition or in favor as we have a community that loves our public libraries but please keep in mind, *something will be offensive to someone in any book*. As it is written, Senate Bill 2307 is subjective. There will always be some people who find portions of works to be difficult or objectionable which other people do not find difficult or objectionable. It is impossible for everyone to agree on the merits of every single book in a library. With that being said, I want to thank you for allowing me to express my own opinion on this matter, and I do hope you visit your local libraries.

Kind regards,

Laci Heironimus