

I would like to speak against SB 2307. I would like to point out the following:

- 1 - public libraries already have procedures in place to evaluate and assess any single piece of media that is contested by a patron
- 2 - library cards for children have the option of being restricted to non-adult materials only placed on them upon the parent's/guardian's request
- 3 - the implementation of this bill could lead to the loss of access by all library patrons to materials online provided through Libby and Hoopla, severely restricting access to an expansive variety of materials, especially for those in small towns and rural communities
- 4 - libraries already separate books by shelving children's, young adult, and adult materials separately
- 5- parents are the responsible party for what their own children check out and read/watch from any library. They have the responsibility to determine what will be best for their own child's reading level, maturity level, and what fits within their own family values and beliefs. This is not the responsibility of the library, the community or the state to determine or to impose restrictions that would prevent parents from the ability to make these decisions for their families.
- 6 - the implementation of this bill will place a severe hardship on small rural libraries, many of which exist in a single small room with no ability to segregate or create separate sections of the library in a way that access can gate-kept
- 7 - the implementation of this bill will place an additional hardship on small rural libraries who, out of necessity, need access for the entirety of their limited space to hold gatherings and events such as story time, teen game nights, teen craft nights, holiday scavenger hunts, STEM activity days, etc and do not have additional space in which to hold these child/teen centered activities
- 8 - the implementation of this bill will place additional hardship on small rural libraries who only have one or two public computers and may not have the space or ability to locate a computer in the children's/teen's section resulting in the loss of computer access for teens who do not have access to the internet at home
- 9 - this bill does not address any details on implementing this, including funding to provide adequate spaces for small rural libraries
- 10 - the implementation of this bill would make libraries a restrictive space in which the community is not fully welcomed or allowed and in which librarians are forced into policing this policy. Children and teens would find themselves treated as if they are a problem in a public community space through not being allowed inside the library except for a single room or a curtained off corner as if they themselves are not welcome or wanted there.

11 - this bill does not address access to non-fiction books leaving it open to interpretation as to whether or not teens will be able to access materials needed (such as history or science books) for school work or even simply wanting to look for and check out a cook book.

12 - this bill does not address how a family is supposed to access the library as a family such as: are children/teens allowed outside of their designated area in the company of an adult

13 - the implementation of this bill creates the idea for children and teens that the larger library and their services (including adult fiction and non-fiction books, access to printers, meeting rooms, computers, newspapers, magazines etc) is somehow a dangerous and unsafe space full of "bad" things.