

To whom it may concern,

My name is David Rasmussen, and I am writing in opposition to SB 2307. I am the father of 3 children in the Sargent Central School District, in Forman, ND. I would like to tell you all that our district just had a situation about a book removal last fall. Now, there was some testimony regarding this back in the senate judiciary committee, and I can tell you what they heard was a flat out lie. A book series was called into question, was reviewed according to the policy, and found to not be in violation. This bill will censor material based on an individual viewpoint. That is the truth about what happened in our school. An individual's viewpoint tried to make this decision for the entire community, and simply didn't like the outcome. The policies in place do work. There is no need for this bill. I consider myself a reasonable person, but this whole process of censoring something you don't like is quite unreasonable. If you don't want your child to read certain books, I suggest you parent your child. I will do the same with my own children. It really is simple, if you don't like a book, don't read that book.

Putting this into law is government overreach. It is costly, when we don't have money, or manpower in rural libraries to undertake the measures laid out in this bill. I say to you, our library system isn't broken, it needs more support. I can't begin to express how much I disagree with the sentiment that this is bill is here to protect our children. Our libraries are safe and do care about the children. I would like to remind all of you that you cannot legislate morality. In fact, it is not your responsibility to do so. We live in an overwhelmingly Christian area, but that doesn't give us the right to push our religious views on the masses.

I plead with you ladies and gentlemen to not go down this path. Our public education system is very important to our young children. Reading is a great way to expand horizons and learn. We should be encouraging, not censoring. I know many teachers and librarians, and I will tell you they want to see our children succeed. There isn't one of them that has a specific agenda they are trying to push on anyone.