

Dear Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to urge a "Do Not Pass" on SB 2307.

This bill would set a precedence for dangerous censorship in our libraries and demonstrates legislators' interference in North Dakotans' sexuality. Public libraries are one of the few spaces all people in a community can access knowledge and learning unimpeded. The kind of censorship proposed in this bill is a disturbing move on the part of the government to control what type of information is available to the general public. This is a serious move. It is an intrusion of government into community members' learning and community spaces.

SB 2307 is also incredibly non-specific. For example, the bill references "contemporary ND standards." How will these standards be set? Will they be documented somewhere for all to see? Will North Dakotans be surveyed in order to determine what "contemporary ND standards" are? Or, will the state decide for all of us what the "contemporary ND standards" are? Additionally, the bill states that "sexual conduct, whether normal or perverted" constitutes obscene material if it is "patently offensive" in manner. The phrase "normal or perverted" is a telling example of a poorly hidden motivation for this bill- i.e., to limit the public's access to diverse and inclusive expressions of sexuality, sexual orientation, sexual expression, and sexual identity. What constitutes "perverted" sexual activity? Does the state government determine that as well? Why is the government so concerned with the kind of sex constituents are having and if it is in the books we're reading? I urge you to reflect on the profound impact this bill could have and the precedent it sets.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Brittany Borgen