

Chairperson Klemin and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge you to give a DO NOT PASS recommendation on Senate Bill 2307. While I understand the concerns that may have led to this bill, there are already processes in place at the local level to address issues with library materials. This bill is unnecessary and puts free speech at risk.

Libraries exist to provide open access to information, and decisions about materials should stay with local library and school boards, not be dictated by vague, subjective standards. This bill would allow individuals to report librarians simply for including books they don't agree with, potentially leading to criminal charges or loss of funding for schools and libraries. That is extreme and unfair.

I have very fond memories of going to my local library growing up, and I now take my kids to the same library to grow a love for reading and learning, however I want my children to be exposed to diverse viewpoints while also taking parental responsibility of the content my children are accessing.

Educators and librarians work hard to serve their communities. They should not have to fear prosecution for doing their jobs. SB 2307 could result in censorship and the unnecessary removal of books that offer important knowledge and diverse perspectives.

Restricting access to information does not serve the people of North Dakota. Please protect our libraries, educators, and the rights of our communities by rejecting this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Joelle Schmuck