

Testimony in Opposition to SB 2307
March 18, 2025

Chair and members of the committee, my name is Whitney Oxendahl, and I'm writing in opposition of Senate Bill 2307.

I've spent hundreds of hours at my local public library, especially as a parent to three young kids. There are a limited number of free activities to do with babies and toddlers during the day as a stay-at-home parent. The library was a welcoming place where I could bring my babies and meet other parents in the community. There are family restrooms to use, soft chairs to sit in, and toys and puzzles for toddlers to play with.

What's special about my library wasn't just the space, but the people who worked there. The children's librarians entertained my toddlers and babies at story time each week, found books about trucks for my vehicle-obsessed toddler, and helped me clean up on days when my toddlers were crying and I had to hurry home.

Hearing what legislators are saying about librarians who have supported my family in a tough time parenting young kids has been hard for me to hear and hurtful to library staff. This is not an accurate depiction of the amazing professionals serving my family and our community. I hope legislators will spend more time in our public libraries to see the work librarians do and how they serve the families in our communities.

For legislators concerned about books and materials in our libraries, know that parents and caregivers can be in charge of what our kids check out at the library. We check out books that are appropriate for our kids' ages, interests, and personalities. Legislators don't need to do this for us, and we don't need to have law enforcement involved in this process.

I urge you to give Senate Bill 2307 a Do Not Pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.