

Birgit Pruess, Ph.D.
3696 Harrison St. S
Fargo, ND

March 16, 2025

RE: SB2307

Dear members of the 69th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

Please, accept the below as my testimony IN OPPOSITION of SB2307, to “relating to the definition of a public library, required safety policies and technology protection measures, and the state's attorney's review of public libraries, school districts, and state agencies for compliance with statutes protecting minors from explicit sexual material; etc”. I am a resident of Fargo and testify as a private person. I am below summarizing my concerns.

The bill as it is written now criminalizes librarians. Librarians are professionals whose job description is to educate the public. These days, that is a pretty tough job already. They don't need our state legislature to tell them how to do their job.

Librarians already had to search their libraries after the last legislative assembly two years ago. That is an expensive and time consuming process. Our librarians and their support personnel have better work to do to serve the public.

Not every library has a room where you can lock in (or lock out) minors. This is especially true for libraries in rural North Dakota.

When in history have book banners ever ended up on the side of the good guys? Just trust the parents to supervise their kids and determine what they can read. Once kids become teenagers, they already know what sex is anyways.

By the time I wrote this letter, there were 210 testimonies on the website for this bill. Of these, 35 were in favor and 6 were neutral. The remaining testimonies are in opposition. Maybe our legislators could trust the people of North Dakota to make decisions about the books they wanna read or the books they want their kids to read by themselves.

I would highly appreciate a DO NOT PASS vote on SB2307.

As in all my testimonies, I much appreciate the hard work and dedication that each member of my state legislative assembly puts into our state. Thank you.

Sincerely and respectfully Birgit Pruess,
Ph.D.