

March 16, 2025

House Judiciary Committee  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Klemin, Vice Chairman Karls, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Corinne Edgerton and I am a concerned North Dakota library patron. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 2307. I urge you to issue a "Do Not Pass" recommendation for the following reasons.

This bill presents a serious threat to the fundamental principles of intellectual freedom and access to information within our state. It claims to protect children, but it actually limits everyone's access to information, leading to censorship in our libraries.

The freedom to read is a cornerstone of a democratic society. It allows individuals to explore different ideas, perspectives, and experiences, which are key parts of learning. SB 2307 threatens this freedom, making it harder for North Dakotans to get the information they need. Because the bill's wording is unclear, people can easily abuse it. Individuals with specific beliefs could get books they don't like relocated, which could mean building locked cabinets to house material questioned by individual community members, so they can be accessible only to adults. This results in limiting everyone's access and harming the library's role as a place for diverse ideas

SB 2307 targets and intimidates librarians and teachers. It empowers people who disagree with a library selection to report the library to their local state's attorney and removes the control from our local library boards and school boards. The bill unfairly subjects librarians to potential criminal charges for fulfilling their professional duties and undermines their expertise and the trust placed in them.

Everyone should have the right to choose what they read. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what they and their families read. This bill is a dangerous overreach that will harm our libraries, educators, and communities. Therefore, I ask you to stand against SB 2307 and issue a "Do Not Pass" recommendation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corinne Edgerton".

Corinne Edgerton (she/her)