

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Mindie Bopp and I am writing in opposition to SB 2307. I reside in District 28, which is one of the 5 rural counties that Senator Erbele represents, as someone who recently sat on our curriculum review committee while our school went through the process of reviewing materials in our library. I can attest that per the school board policy, the books were reviewed by a curriculum review committee, and one of the tools utilized was the Miller Test. The committee unanimously voted to retain the books in our library. And while some may not have liked the outcome, the process was followed.

While SB 2307 intention may be to protect children, it creates a restrictive environment where educators and librarians must continuously police materials out of fear of legal action. The language in the bill is broad, which can lead to subjective interpretations. This could result in removing important educational materials, including literature, health education books, and historical texts, simply because they contain references to sexuality, anatomy, or other topics some may find uncomfortable. Instead of empowering educators to make informed decisions based on expertise, this type of regulation forces educators to err on the side of censorship, restricting access to knowledge rather than expanding it. The role of educators and librarians is to guide students toward critical thinking and informed decision-making, not to shield them from challenging ideas. SB 2307 will only foster fear rather than trust in professionals.

Lastly, as a parent, if you don't want your child to read something, then you as a parent must have open communication, and clearly explain your concerns. But I assure you what is best for one family may not be best for all, as every family has its own set of North Dakota Standards. This bill is a government overreach. Banning books is not going to stop the youth from seeing images or reading explicit material. If kids have a phone in their hands, or access to the internet then they have access to far worse material than a book. I urge a **DO NOT PASS** vote on SB 2307.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindie Bopp

District 28