

Chair Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kala Christensen, and I teach 7th-grade English in Grand Forks. I am asking for a DO NOT PASS vote on SB 2307.

As an English teacher, SB 2307 concerns me. I instill in my students the importance of reading and writing for different purposes. We learn to read and write to inform, persuade, and entertain. In all these variations, students need to be able to see themselves and each other to truly make a connection with the texts and their own writing. I am concerned that this bill will become a slippery slope that will extend from sexually explicit material to any social or identity topic that people deem “inappropriate” that day.

Public libraries and public school libraries already have policies to follow when ordering new books and handling complaints about offered materials. Where is the money coming from to pay for these committees to do the reviews? Who is making up these committees? Why do they get to decide for everybody else? Why aren't we trusting parents to do their job and monitor what their children are reading? That's what this comes down to. Parents should be trusted to make these decisions on their own. Nobody should be making reading decisions for others.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kala Christensen