

Testimony Opposing SB 2307

To the Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 2307. As a concerned citizen and active library user in North Dakota, I believe this bill poses a significant threat to the accessibility, resources, and overall function of our libraries, which are vital community hubs.

North Dakota libraries are experiencing increased usage, demonstrating their growing importance to our communities. SB 2307 is an unnecessary bill that would significantly hinder the operations of libraries in the state. All libraries have established policies and procedures that make this bill irrelevant.

The proposed legislation could lead to several detrimental consequences:

- **Elimination of Displays:** Libraries would be forced to remove displays to avoid accusations of promoting "obscene" material. Displays enhance the library environment and help patrons discover new materials. Who determines what is considered "obscene"?
- **Restricted Access to Materials:** Locked cabinets for challenged materials, accessible only to adults, would create barriers to information and limit intellectual freedom.
- **Job Losses:** High school-aged library shelvers could lose their jobs due to concerns about handling materials that might be deemed inappropriate.
- **Limited Collection Development:** Libraries may refrain from purchasing materials with any sexual content, impacting access to essential resources in art, health, and other subjects.
- **Discontinued Digital Services:** Popular digital services and research databases could be discontinued if digital age verification systems cannot be implemented.

These restrictions would undermine the library's ability to serve as a welcoming and informative space for all members of the community. I urge you to reject SB 2307 and support our libraries.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Krystal Anderson

Horace, North Dakota