

Dear Representatives,

My name is Melinda Obach, and I am an educator and enthusiastic library patron in Dickinson, North Dakota. Please do the sensible thing and vote NO on SB 2307. North Dakotans do not want book bans; North Dakotans do not want to see librarians arrested, fined, or jailed for doing their jobs (which provide an extremely valuable service to our communities); North Dakotans do not need to be told by out-of-state fringe groups which books we can and cannot read. I trust families and I trust librarians.

This bill does more harm than good. Just to name a few, it would cost libraries exorbitant amounts of money to remodel to fall in line with the bill's requirements (I like how the Dickinson Area Public Library already uses their funds: to provide our area with tons of activities, social gatherings, resources, digital literacy, and books for ALL), and it would vilify librarians. Librarians! People who take such pride in their work in making communities more literate, safer, accessible, and inclusive.

Again, there is NO pornography in children's sections of libraries. Why this lie continues baffles me. And there are already procedures in place at all libraries for a book to be reviewed. This bill is an unnecessary waste of time and energy.

Public libraries are, in my opinion, the greatest resource a town can have. Do not hinder access to them. Do not denigrate them and their staff. Do not pass this bill.

Thank you,

Melinda Obach