

Hello. I am writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 2307.

During the last session, the legislature passed a law requiring libraries to deal at the local level with requests to remove books (despite the fact that most libraries already had such policies in place). Libraries must currently submit a report of complaints about books (there have been virtually none).

Requiring libraries to physically separate books that fall under a vague definition of “inappropriate” (in some people’s minds) would be a financial burden, especially for small libraries. It would potentially include such popular, mainstream authors as Stephen King. (Don’t forget Biblical books like Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon!) It would cost over \$1.1 million to reconfigure school library databases, and who knows how this could even be managed through the widely used Libby app used for electronic borrowing (which has positively impacted statewide and rural access to library books and materials)?

Even worse than the few foisting their reading tastes on the many, this proposed law could criminalize librarians and library staff members.

Censorship like this – and really, it’s hard to find a different word for it – is not the way we should go in freedom-loving North Dakota. Our legislature does not need to be in the business of deciding which books libraries should offer and which books citizens and communities may choose to read.

Please vote NO on SB2307.

Sincerely,

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