

Good morning, Chairwoman Larson and members of the Judiciary committee. My name is Lisa Aune, I am the Vice President for the Dickinson Area Public Library in Dickinson, ND. I was submitting my testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2307. A “DO PASS” is what I am requesting.

I am a mother of six children and three grandchildren. All of whom live in North Dakota. I do not feel comfortable having my family browse around any public library in recent years. I have seen explicit sexual material that is readily available for their review. Some of these materials have been showcased or displayed to draw children in. Some of the content in question is buried within the books. Finding it hard to allow parents to vet every book being checked out by children. These types of books are not only available in our public libraries, but they are also available in school libraries through bookmobile services as well as on the school shelves.

This bill is aimed at protecting those that are not quite ready to protect themselves. Allowing this bill to pass will ensure that North Dakota is ready to protect our youth until our youth is old enough to make their own decisions. Education on some of the more complex recent cultural issues like gender identity or self-awareness and information on reproduction and puberty are important. However, that can be done when the parents are ready to address the educational moments when their children are emotionally ready to handle such delicate issues.

Again, I am asking for a DO PASS on Senate Bill 2307, to protect our children.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.