

Please Vote No on SB 2307. This bill targets and prosecutes librarians and teachers. I have always worked with parents on what they want their children to read. As an English teacher, if a parent requested a different classroom novel, I accommodated that request. As a school librarian, if a parent requests a student not have access to specific books, authors, or topics, I would accommodate that as well. I have shared tools with parents on how they can help their child select books. I truly have not had many requests for either, but when I did, I worked with parents to decide what was best for their children. I do not believe the state legislature needs to intervene and take away local control and even take away parental control of those decisions. This bill would suspend access to eBooks and audiobooks from our state online consortium databases like Libby. It also may prohibit access to our statewide online databases where students can research topics for school. Most school libraries pay a subscription cost to ODIN (The Online Dakota Information Network) for access to these databases. The State Library also has databases, but ODIN provides more options. Single libraries cannot afford access to these databases, but as a state consortium, we can be a part of it. Students do not have single log in access to these databases. They are able to use them without a login while on school campus because they are allowed access according to their internet IP. If students need to research at home, they have access to a school library barcode and password, or they can also use their public library card or state library card - not all students have those though. This bill would impede free access to information for all North Dakota students. One of my important jobs is to teach students how to research and to give credit to their sources. The databases are a huge part of showing students what credible sources are.