

March 17, 2025

Madam Chair Larson and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for taking time to read my testimony today. My name is Kimberly Ho; I am a homeschool mom to three sons and I count it the utmost responsibility to make wise decisions surrounding our children's education as well as what we allow them to be exposed to. I have been a resident of Dickinson, ND since October 2020; our family moved here from California, where I was born and raised. We love it here in ND and have found a great homeschool, church, and neighborhood community surrounding us here. One thing that I have been completely shocked by is our current library situations that have arose in the past few years. When the book "Let's Talk About It" The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human (A Graphic Novel) landed on our local Dickinson Area Public Library shelf and our community became aware of it and rose up in defense; I was present at that DAPL board meeting where concerns were discussed, and watched as the current board didn't take action towards the nature of such material. They relied on request for reconsideration policies, which comes with many flaws and many hoops to be jumped through for the book to actually be looked at through a lens of conservative nature. This is something I never expected to encounter here in North Dakota, so after my observation of that incident I committed to stepping out of my personal comfort zone and applied to sit on our local DAPL board; I secured a spot in June of 2023. Since sitting on the board I have come to realize many things and today I will share a few of those with you. I have been obtaining invoices of materials ordered every month for almost the past two years here in Dickinson, ND, and I will tell you that there have been explicit materials ordered and placed on "new book" shelves where children will look at them. One of the titles that struck me as odd was ordered back in 2023, a book titled, "We Need To Talk About Vaginas: An Important Book About Vulvas, Puberty, and Sex!" This book not only is explicit in title but the material found within was disturbing to say the least. The inside covers of the book are covered with pencil drawn vaginas, inside the pages of this book are naked girls in different stages of development, breasts and pubic hair exposed; these are just two examples from this book, there are more. This book now sits in our juvenile nonfiction section of our Dickinson library. There are other books too, that currently sit on the shelves in our children section that portray what I would define as pornography, whether in picture or verbal words. I would personally not want my children to happen upon a book like the one above. I do believe that our children need to be educated but our public libraries need to have parameters around the materials that children are exposed to. I know from personal experience that there is a lack of accountability to the process of ordering books and the research behind those chosen books that get brought into our libraries. To me these explicit materials don't reflect our local communities wants and interests, these books aren't ordered with the best interest of our communities children and families in mind! If I can honestly express my concern as a parent I believe we are dumbing our children down by providing and making these accessible, in our public libraries. We are taking a risk introducing them to naked pictures of people versus the scientific textbooks we learned from back in the 80's. We don't know the effects this type of exposure with have on our children and youth, the future of our ND cities and communities. SB 2307 ensures that we are going to be proactive about not exposing our children, the future generations, to explicit materials. For these many reasons I personally support SB 2307 and ask you to pass this further into law. SB 2307 will bring accountability to the areas that lack, and hopefully bring good recourses onto our library shelves that grow and

educate our children and youth, not expose them to unnecessary indecency. Again, thank you for your time and I support a DO PASS of SB 2307!