

March 17, 2025

Committee Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Jessie Mann, and I am writing in opposition of Senate Bill 2307. I am opposed to this bill as a mother of young children, as a patron of public libraries, and as a director of a public library.

While, as a public library director, I feel strongly that this bill would negatively impact our community by limiting the available materials, as well as the age of patrons which would be allowed to enter our small one-room library, I would like to write to you now as a consumer and a mother.

If libraries and book stores are going to be asked to remove any materials deemed inappropriate for children, please think about all of the other businesses and entities who theoretically should be asked to screen, monitor, and limit their products and services to children due to safety concerns and potential risks to their well-being.

Our local grocery store should ban parents and children from purchasing all foods that contain any colored dye.

Our local hardware store should ban children from entering the aisles containing utility knives or sharp tools.

Our local swimming pool should ban two-piece swimwear and, in addition, require swim shirts.

Our local drug store should ban children from entering its facility where adult over-the-counter medications and healthcare products are well within reach.

Our local clothing boutique should place women's intimates in a barricaded back room where only adults may be granted access to browse.

Our local bakery and ice cream shop should limit children to only being allowed to purchase sweets that contain a very low amount of sugar—or to limit the portions purchased by or for children.

Our local meat shop should put up an opaque window, rather than transparent glass, between where the butchered animals are being processed and the till where consumers and their children can purchase meat.

Our local clinics should remove any posters containing pictures of human anatomy.

Our local schools should ban sex education and basic anatomy classes because the course material contains pictures of or information about reproductive organs.

How far should our government go to limit the free will of its people to consume as each individual person or family chooses? I personally would like to choose for myself what materials I will allow my children to browse through or check out from our public library. I do not want the government making those decisions for me and my children. I do not want the librarians making those decisions for me and my children. I do not want the grocer, the pharmacist, the life guard, the baker, the physician, or the school principal making those decisions for me and my children.

Thank you for your efforts to keep the children of our great state safe. I believe this bill stems from a place of caring and concern. However, I believe it oversteps the rights of many North Dakota citizens and will end up negatively impacting the children and families who frequent their public libraries.

I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 2307. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Jessie Mann