



1 **Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2307**

2 Chairman Klemin and members of the committee, I am here to express my **opposition** to **Senate**  
3 **Bill 2307**, which seeks to impose broad oversight and penalties on school districts, public  
4 libraries, and state agencies regarding the presence of materials deemed “explicit sexual  
5 material.” My opposition doesn’t come in protecting our children – it is in the unreasonable and  
6 extreme approach that is being taken in this bill and in many others in many committees  
7 regarding how we approach something that one deems undesirable. While in this bill we don’t  
8 want our children learning lessons of obscenity, as a mother, I find it no less obscene to have a  
9 society where we cannot show our children how to appropriately resolve disagreements, come to  
10 a resolution, and find a way toward amiable common ground before calling in the attorney  
11 general.

12 While **protecting minors from inappropriate content is important**, this bill **overreaches,**  
13 **disregards local control, undermines due process, and creates unnecessary bureaucratic**  
14 **burdens** on schools and libraries.

15 **Key Concerns**

16 **1. Bypasses Local Governance & Due Process**

- 17 • This bill allows **any person** to file a complaint with the Attorney General **without**  
18 **requiring them to first engage in the school district or library’s established review**  
19 **process.**
- 20 • **Local school boards and library boards**—elected by and accountable to their  
21 communities—are **best positioned to handle concerns about library materials.**
- 22 • This bill **disempowers local decision-making** and **subjects schools and libraries to**  
23 **state-level oversight without local resolution first being attempted.**

24 **2. Creates an Unworkable System & Unfunded Mandates**

- 25 • The bill mandates that schools and libraries **continuously review** their collections to  
26 ensure compliance, without providing additional **funding, staffing, or guidance** to do so.
- 27 • **Reporting requirements and AG reviews** create an administrative burden that **diverts**  
28 **resources away from education and library services.**

29 **3. Unclear & Subjective Standards for “Explicit Material”**

- 30 • The bill uses broad, subjective terms that can **be applied inconsistently or weaponized**  
31 **for censorship** beyond protecting minors.
- 32 • What **one parent or patron** considers offensive may be **widely accepted as educational**  
33 **or age-appropriate by professional educators and librarians.**
- 34 • This could lead to **unnecessary book bans and restrictions on historical, scientific, or**  
35 **health-related content.** Furthermore, this can put our students at a competitive

*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education  
for all students in North Dakota.*

*Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Government Lead and Special Projects: Kevin Hoherz*



1           disadvantage. Vendors may see North Dakota’s laws as cumbersome nuisance that  
2           simply isn’t worth it in comparison to the business elsewhere in states with more  
3           realizing that the policies in place are working and simply not work with us anymore  
4           thereby having our students losing out on important resources.

5   **4. Severe Financial Penalties That Harm Schools & Libraries**

- 6           • **The State’s Attorney is granted authority to halt funding to entire schools or**  
7           **libraries** based on a single complaint or violation.
- 8           • This level of financial punishment is **disproportionate**, especially when **districts may**  
9           **have already acted in good faith** to address concerns. Schools are one of the largest  
10          employers of every community – to cut off funding based on the complaint of one person  
11          without local due process and putting the paychecks of local patrons at risk is  
12          unreasonable.

13   **5. Sets a Dangerous Precedent**

- 14          • **Public institutions should not be governed by the most extreme voices**, yet this bill  
15          allows **any person—regardless of their connection to a school or library—to escalate**  
16          **complaints directly to the Attorney General.**
- 17          • This invites **frivolous complaints** and **political interference** into educational spaces.

18   **Conclusion**

19   While I fully support the **age-appropriate curation of educational materials, Senate Bill 2307**  
20   **is an excessive and punitive measure** that:

- 21          • **Strips local control from school boards and librarians.**
- 22          • **Imposes vague, subjective standards on educational materials.**
- 23          • **Threatens school and library funding over isolated complaints.**
- 24          • **Creates administrative burdens that detract from education and literacy efforts.**

25   I urge this committee to **oppose** Senate Bill 2307 and seek a more balanced approach that  
26   respects **local governance, due process, and the expertise of educators and librarians.**

27   Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.