

Testimony Before the House Judiciary Committee SB 2307 Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Chairman Klemin and members of the Committee, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. On behalf of the 11,500 members of North Dakota United, I am writing to you today in opposition to censorship and SB 2307, and to urge a *do not pass* recommendation.

Members of the Committee, in communities across North Dakota, our friends and neighbors routinely elect men and women to serve on city councils/commissions, county commissions, and school boards. These citizens create rules and policies to govern any number of local functions and institutions, including their libraries. If a local school board or library board is doing something or allowing policies that offend local sensibilities, the policies adopted locally are sufficient mitigate the offending practices. What local communities do not need is the heavy hand of the state meddling in the affairs of local communities. Sadly, SB 2307 provides a mechanism by which the state can usurp the authority currently vested in locally elected officials.

Mr. Chairman, no one is in favor of placing inappropriate materials in the hands or viewshed of children. That is why professional librarians at public and school libraries take great care in assembling their collections. SB 2307 is a heavy-handed solution that is not only unnecessary but is an affront to local control. The state does not have an interest in replacing the judgement of local officials and parents.

For these reasons, Chairman Klemin, and members of the Committee, I urge a *do not pass* recommendation for SB 2307.

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