

March 18, 2025

To the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly,

I am writing today as the Kidder County Public Library Director, and as a mom and taxpayer, asking you to oppose SB2307.

As a mom to four children and a library director SB2307 does not accomplish its intent of protecting children in North Dakota and only serves to burden taxpayers and reduce library services across the state.

SB2307 is redundant as we already do not house obscene material in libraries, and we do not keep adult content in children's collection, per state code. We hold our library material selections against the Miller test, and libraries have collection development and reconsideration policies, among many others. This bill leaves a wide interpretation of explicit material, especially when you consider that we already don't house obscene material in our libraries. What is explicit to one, would not be to another.

This bill seeks to remove adult content deemed explicit, to areas not accessible to minors. For small libraries like ours that is essentially a one room library with a bathroom and a small kid's alcove in the middle, this presents a difficult and potentially expensive outcome as we do not have the space to house an additional area just for adult content, and we have limitations in separating our collections physically. How we would accomplish separating our collections or creating an adult's only section would be incredibly costly and severely limit the space that we do have, which in turn will greatly impact what programs and services we can offer.

Over the last several years our library has undergone major updates to our entire building, and we have greatly increased our number of library patrons and the programs we offer. Many of our patrons have families and because of our small and open space they can visit and enjoy all of our library and its collections, together. Physically limiting what little space we do have would be devastating to how much we have accomplished recently, not to mention the financial impact.

As a mother of four kids who range in ages and reading abilities, this bill does not protect my children. As a parent I know what is acceptable and appropriate for my kids both in content and reading level. I also know that any library we visit, including ours, has a range of materials and selections and as a parent it's my job, not the state's, to supervise what they read.

Quite simply, this bill is not necessary, and only serves to burden taxpayers and limit library services across the state if passed.

I strongly urge the committee to not pass SB2307.

Sincerely,

Annie Craven

Kidder County Public Library

Library Director