

Testimony in opposition to SB 2307: (3/18/25)

My name is Traci Juhala. I currently hold the position of Head of Youth Services at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library and have been in this position since 2008.

I urge a Do Not Pass for SB 2307.

My responsibility as a librarian is multifaceted. I assist patrons, help develop programs, supervise staff, and develop and manage a collection of materials. In terms of my collection development duties, my responsibility is to collect, organize, and provide a broad range of materials for my community within the parameters of my assigned age range and the financial resources I am allotted. I make decisions in good faith based on my education, years of experience, professional reviews, community recommendations, and with feedback from coworkers and/or supervisors. We serve a diverse community; therefore, our collection is diverse. If patrons have concerns about materials, we have an established process for handling these concerns.

People from all walks of life use the public library. They have different wants and needs. Libraries provide a broad range of materials to meet these needs. Patrons choose to read what they want and leave in place what they don't. Over my 25-year career as a librarian, this very basic process has worked well for the majority of the public. My suggestion is that this basic process should be allowed to continue. SB 2307 is not only unnecessary, but it would create undue strain on library staff who might fear criminal prosecution simply for making collection development decisions.

My thanks to you for reading this testimony.

Again, I urge a Do Not Pass for SB 2307.