

January 24, 2025

Chairman Beard and members of the Education Committee:

I am writing as a North Dakota citizen, a library user, and someone who has worked in a variety of libraries, to ask that you vote to oppose SB 2278.

I understand that this bill is only intended to authorize a study, but I strongly believe it would ultimately be a terrible waste of taxpayer dollars as you will only learn that the proposed retention of library materials is unreasonable.

Based simply on space, it would be impossible to retain copies of books that are updated. This will be a particular challenge when it comes to nonfiction books such as those on the topics of science and medicine.

Beyond this issue of space, it would also be a very time-consuming imposition to suppose that library staff would be able to read every new edition of books to compare whether or not language has changed.

Finally: Why? Why is this important? Why is this needed? It makes it seem as though the legislators who introduced this bill want to bring back the “N word,” the “R word,” and the “F word.” Do they want to keep items with slurs like [REDACTED] too? Is this what we want to use taxpayer money on?

Please do not waste your time and our money and oppose SB 2278.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Anderson

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