

February 7, 2025

TO: Senate Public Hearing members

FROM: Deneen Axtman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Deneen Axtman', written over a horizontal line.

RE: SB 2307---Oppose

I strongly oppose SB 2307 and censorship. Our North Dakota librarians are professionally trained to do their jobs and provide appropriate books for their communities. Our local library boards represent the local community, and they are in the best position to communicate with the local librarian if the local citizens have a concern about certain materials in the library--and together, those at the local level can deal with the issue in the best way for that community.

Legislating censorship at the state level is heavy-handed, intrusive, and NOT conducive to the needs of the local communities. There are local processes already in place to address concerns.

This bill represents government overreach. The legislature should not be involved in trying to restrict individuals' or local communities' choices in reading