

## Testimony on SB 2307 Submitted February 7, 2025

Chairman Larson and members of the Judiciary Committee, as a retired educator and former Dean of a College of Education I write in opposition to SB 2307 for the following reasons:

1. The bill is totally unworkable. For example, this bill will require the involvement of the Office of the Attorney General, the State Treasurer and the Superintendent of Public Instruction in determining which library books, educational materials, resources, etc. do not comply with this law. Every library and school district in the state will be required to make an **annual** report to “legislative management” to comply with this bill. These busy officials have far better things to do than monitor and implement this misguided bill. Further, “reasonable” people disagree routinely about the merits of books and reading materials. As noted below, there are already in place better ways to address these issues than provided in this bill.
2. In many respects the bill is unnecessary as there are already laws on the books that deal with the possession of pornography and related matters.
3. The bill is a misguided effort by the sponsors to censor books and materials that they may find personally objectionable but that may be regarded as important and even classic literature and legitimate educational materials.
4. Public libraries and school districts already have policies and practices in place to screen books and reading materials for age level appropriateness by people who are qualified do make those decisions. And they have policies and procedures by which citizens may raise objections to books and materials. This bill would create a law with punitive financial penalties in place of these more reasonable and professional practices.
5. The sponsors of the bill are no doubt advocates for limited government and parental authority, yet this bill is an example of “Big Brother” government intrusion into matters better left to trained librarians, educators, and parents.

For all of these reasons, I urge your committee to give this bill a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

Daniel Rice, retired Professor and Dean of Education and Human Development at UND, now residing in Fargo, ND. (The views expressed here are my own and do not necessarily represent those of UND.)

