

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to urge you to vote no on SB 2307. This bill is unnecessary. Schools across the state already have in place policies for how librarians select books to add to their collections that as a whole meet the learning needs and interests of students in certain age groups. All North Dakota schools also have in place policies outlining the procedure for when a book's presence in the library is challenged by parents in the school community. This allows parents to tell a librarian they want a certain book removed from the library, or they may discuss with the librarian what books they don't want their children to check out. If they cannot settle the matter at that stage, then it is brought to the attention of the school principal. If they still cannot come to an agreement about the course of action to take in regards to whether to keep a book in the library or not, then it will be discussed with the school board. At that point, it may be decided whether or not a book is taken out of the library. Because of these policies, decisions about books at individual schools in North Dakota can be handled and resolved quicker at the school community level rather than at the state level without having to involve law enforcement. I've been an educator at Flasher Public School for 7 years, and during that time I only know of one instance when a parent confronted the school librarian about a book. It was a nonfiction book about Chucky the doll from the horror movie franchise. Other students have checked out this book and had no problems. However, when the parent read the book to the child, the child got scared, and that made the parent want the librarian to remove that book from the library. When the parent and the librarian met and discussed the matter, though, they came to an agreement that the librarian will not let the child check out any more scary books but instead ones that would be more suited to the child's interests. Not only is SB 2307 unnecessary, it is also extreme. Parents have the right to decide the kind of books they want their own children to read, and they can work together with the librarians on that without having to involve the police.