

Against SB 2307

Dear Legislators:

This bill aims to ensure minors don't see inappropriate things, but whose to say what inappropriate? THE PARENTS! It is not my legislators' job to govern what is in my library for my children's perusal. If I feel something's inappropriate, I can put it back and tell my children NO. It's my job as their parent. If I feel it's too mature for an area of my library, I can do a reconsideration and ask librarians to think about moving it. That is the LIBRARIAN's job. Reconsideration policies are in every ND library!

Minors and sex and what is appropriate has been a divisive subject. Some would have that no mention of sex, body parts, or childbirth be mentioned. Let's not ever say the word "period" or especially "menstruation". Others have a more open policy, understanding that our children have eyes and can clearly see their own bodies and have questions about them. This bill makes no allowances for sex education which is gross negligence on the part of any educator. Most parents use a book of some kind to explain sex to kids and teens. This bill makes it impossible for parents to get a book from their library to have this talk about an important part of growing up and how to handle it.

Libraries already have filters prevent explicit sites in the library. This law is adding expense on something that is already taken care of. Why are we wasting tax payer money on this? This money is better spent on a child abuse task force.

Children will not be able to use digital databases like Libby or Hoopla which many of our rural students use as their libraries are some distance away. In a state with struggling reading scores, you are making books more inaccessible. This is not good education.

*⁶ How beautiful you are and how pleasant,
my love, with such delights!*

*⁷ Your stature is like a palm tree;
your breasts are clusters of fruit.*

*⁸ I said, "I will climb the palm tree
and take hold of its fruit."*

*May your breasts be like clusters of grapes,
and the fragrance of your breath like apricots.*

Song of Songs 7:4-8

Under this bill, the Bible will have to be removed from libraries minor's access. I would hate for that to happen but if you'll actually read the Good Book, you'll find quite a bit of sex, incest, rape, spousal abuse, fratricide, sororicide, genocide, and let's not forget: the Passion of Christ which was a horrific murder. Appropriateness is certainly in the eye of the reader.

This is bad law, plain and simple.

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