

I am a retired librarian with 16 years experience as Reference and Teen Librarian at the Bismarck Public Library, 5 as Adult Programming and Collection Development Librarian at the West Fargo Public Library, and now 9 years as a member of the board of the Friends of the Fargo Public Library. In order to work in these job areas I was required to earn a master's degree in library science. I have the highest of respect for the library institution, its employees, and how it operates. Public libraries have procedures in place to examine any books that come under scrutiny, including forms that any member of the public can complete, and a library board for each public library that examines any complaint and acts on it in light of community standards. I highly oppose SB2307 for the fact that it states that the DPI and Attorney General's office will become responsible for handling any complaints. I do not believe that this is in the best interest of our state as it unnecessarily puts more responsibility at state level. At a minimum it will add to the workload in these departments and possibly require additional staff. In light of the fact that communities throughout the state have different views on books, i.e. large vs small communities, east culture vs west culture, I feel it is best to let the library boards themselves handle whatever issues that arise. North Dakotans have almost always expressed desire for local control and this seems to go against that premise. I certainly hope you will give careful consideration to this testimony as SB 2307 travels through the legislative process. Kathy Vander Vorst, 240 Prairiewood Drive South, Fargo