Testimony in Opposition to SB 2307 Senate Judiciary Committee February 10, 2025

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Randi Monley. I am writing as a private citizen of Minot, ND. I am also a public children's librarian and a co-chair of Right to Read ND.

I urge you to **oppose** Senate Bill 2307 for the following reasons.

- 1. As someone who helps others find resources that they need in a library, I will never forget my encounter with a foster mother. She was looking for a book for a little girl, no older than seven years old. The caregiver took me aside because she needed my help finding a book that was a low enough level to talk to this child about safe touch and sexual abuse because the girl had experienced this trauma. While some parents may find a book like this to be "too much" for a children's library, I assure you that this book is necessary for that little girl and for other children who have been through such a heartbreaking and traumatising experience.
- 2. It is my inherent right as a mother of two growing boys that I be able to parent my children as I see fit. I utilize the library's vast resources to educate my children on puberty and sexual health. As a single mother, I need books that include pictures of bodies to show my child that is on the autism spectrum what I am talking about. I certainly do not want to have to resort to filth on the internet for this, which is why I use my library. I know that the books within are vetted and collected by librarians who are trained in their profession.

I urge you all to give Senate Bill 2307 a **do not pass recommendation**. Also, as a North Dakota resident, I urge you to work on bills that will actually help children in North Dakota as opposed to limiting them even more.

Randi Monley Minot, ND