

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Senate Bill 2307

I am a former Bismarck resident who enjoys libraries. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 2307, which would penalize librarians for simply trying to do their jobs. In all my years of visiting public libraries, I have never seen a section devoted to pornography. This bill is chasing a problem that doesn't exist. But isn't it the job of parents to supervise their children in our libraries? I often see signs in stores that say that children must be supervised or they will be given cappuccino and a puppy to take home. If children must be supervised by parents in retail stores, why should they not be supervised by parents in libraries? Why impose that responsibility on librarians under penalty of law? No librarian can possibly supervise all the people who enter the library doors. They have many other important administrative tasks to fulfill. Further, our libraries already are under-funded.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution provides: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion; or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." This amendment is called the First Amendment for a reason, and it applies to the states as well as the federal government. Senate Bill 2307 is likely unconstitutional.

This bill reminds me too much of the Taliban's form of governance in Afghanistan. Are we going to go down the same road? Please vote against this bill in the name of freedom.

Sincerely,

Gary Wolberg