

We are sending written testimony in opposition to SB NO 2307.

The determination of what specific material is appropriate to be in a public library should be made by professionals with that training along with the policies that have been created by the library staff, the library board of directors including community input. Libraries already have policies in place to address the issue of appropriateness of materials for their local libraries. This should not be legislated by the State.

Parents should be the guiding force in the supervision of reading choices for their own children, not legislation.

The verbiage of the bills in the attempt to define “explicit sexual behavior”, such as “is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community in North Dakota” and “taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors” leaves too much uncertainty as to what that definition is, especially when this bill also wants to add a “penalty” clause that would withhold funding until a library would be determined to be in compliance.

The House Bill 1205 from the 2023 legislative session already addressed age-appropriate materials in our libraries. No further legislation is needed or appropriate.

Thank you.

Juanita Hocking

Kim Hocking