

To members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

In reviewing SB 2307, I, as a North Dakota resident and citizen, want to detail why this is a bill that could do severe damage to the state.

The value of libraries in North Dakota, at all levels (in K-12 schools, higher education, and those open to the public, including the ND Library and the SHSND archives) is immense. Throughout my life, I've been blessed to visit libraries of all of these kinds, including the two aforementioned libraries in Bismarck. They are critical to enriching the lives of people.

This proposed library bill creates more problems than it solves. Its overly broad definitions for prohibited content are very likely to lead to censorship. The particular focus on shared library databases is dangerous; these are valuable resources for knowledge building that are not known for hosting obscene material. The bill would severely restrict North Dakota libraries' access to these crucial tools. Finally, it would lead to unnecessary oversight on librarians who are already qualified and doing their jobs effectively (This cannot be understated, given the limited funding that libraries have to work with).

I ask you as committee members and senators to reject SB 2307, and to strive for ways to better protect libraries in the state. Thank you.

Benjamin Ferguson