

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

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Mariah Ralston and I'm writing in opposition to SB 2307. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I believe if this bill is passed, special interest groups will use the vague parameters of "explicit sexual material" to challenge books that they personally disagree with from their own religious/cultural viewpoints. That is no reason for the State of North Dakota to empower their prejudice.

It behooves the State of North Dakota to support our citizens' constitutional rights, such as our First Amendment right to speak and receive information.

I believe if a patron takes issue with a specific book in our library collections, they should follow the review processes already in place in our libraries.

I believe this legislation is being used to target specific books that special interest groups have identified, and this bill is being used to intimidate librarians into pre-emptively censoring the materials they purchase for their collections.

This is not representative of a free and Democratic society.

My grandparents left North Dakota over eighty years ago to fight in World War II, and when they came back, this is one of the things they taught me: Americans don't burn books.

I strongly urge you to reject censorship and give SB 2307 a Do Not Pass recommendation. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Mariah Ralston (she/her)