



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2307

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
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Good afternoon, Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma, and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of Senate Bill 2307 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

Our organization and its constituents feel strongly about protecting minors from explicit sexual material. Many of our constituents have told us that they feel unsafe allowing their children and grandchildren to visit the public library when they are not present, because of the content found in books that are available and sometimes even promoted by the libraries. Both public and school libraries currently allow highly inappropriate books to be read by children, frequently under the guise of educational purposes.

In recent years, libraries have been permitted to aggressively push the boundaries further and further regarding what is shown to our children, and not surprisingly, the situation has continued to deteriorate. However, this bill would make libraries accountable to ensure no books in our North Dakota libraries violate our obscenity laws.

Counter to what some may claim, SB 2307 is not out to stifle creativity, artistic expression, or academic research. It specifically exempts organizations such as colleges, universities, museums, and art galleries from the requirements found in the bill. This bill is not about stifling expression or thought, but instead, has everything to do with protecting children from having their innocence stolen from them by age-inappropriate materials.

We understand that our world today is a complex and sometimes confusing place for children as they try to understand social constructs such as gender identity, or scientific facts about subjects such as biological reproduction, puberty, and STIs/STDs. They need to learn about these things to function in our society – shielding them is not an option. However, Senate Bill 2307 would ensure that they are introduced to these concepts honestly and appropriately when their parents decide it is time. We also like that it provides for a review process by the Attorney General with funding being contingent as determined by the outcome of their investigation. So often bills have no consequences for non-compliance, which renders them toothless.

1515 Burnt Boat Dr., Suite C-148, Bismarck, ND 58503
mark@Ndfamilyalliance.org
701-355-6425
www.ndfamilyalliance.org



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North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action wholeheartedly agrees with what this bill seeks to do – protect our children. For that reason, we ask that that your committee render a “DO PASS” on Senate Bill 2307.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to stand for any questions.