

Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 2307

February 10, 2025

Chair Larson, Vice Chair Paulson, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to communicate my opposition to SB 2307. I have strong concerns that this bill infringes on the freedom of parents and youth to choose their own reading materials. As an educator, parent, and engaged community member, I see that we already have reliable systems in place to prioritize purchase and placement of materials in our libraries. Every ND citizen has the freedom to become involved in that local process. We do not need onerous, and punitive legislation that places new burdens on librarians and library boards. Libraries and the people who staff them, should be supported as the foundation for developing citizens who think critically and engage with differences. Adding the potential for criminal penalties to this bill is extreme overreach that undermines the essential role that librarians play in communities.

I reject the argument that this bill would prevent something “dangerous.” We know that the materials being targeted have also proven to be a lifeline of affirmation for others. Families wishing to avoid certain content, already have the right and responsibility to determine which resources they want to access. Allowing a minority of citizens to identify the only acceptable stories and ideas, is an infringement on the freedoms we protect in America.

I implore you to reject SB 2307. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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