

Senate Bill 2307
Senate Judiciary Committee - Sen. Diane Larson, Chair
February 10, 2025
Testimony in Opposition to SB 2307

Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Vicki Voldal Rosenau, a parent and lifelong resident of Valley City, ND. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 2307.

As the parent of a child who had learned to love reading and books and was regularly visiting our local library long before she entered pre-school, I know the value of books and libraries.

I am speaking up against this bill because it proposes blatant censorship, just the kind of extreme Government over-reaching that North Dakotans have long stood against; because it would harm our exemplary network of community libraries; and because it would waste an untold amount of taxpayers' money.

SB 2307 seeks to grow the “nanny state,” which is scorned by most North Dakotans. It is parents, not the government, who must supervise reading choices for their own children. But no parent, including those serving in this Legislature, have the right to supervise reading choices for others' children.

By inflicting harm on our network of vibrant public libraries, SB 2307 is completely out-of-step with the people. We trust and value our experienced, well-educated local librarians and the local library boards who oversee them. Their important work is substantively undermined by legislation like this that limits access to information and First-Amendment rights.

We know that SB 2307 would require libraries to divert public money in order to be in compliance with its nanny-state scheme. There's solid documentation for that. After the 2023 Legislative Assembly passed a similar library-censorship bill into law, Jamestown's public library spent a whopping \$54,500 to comply with its overbearing terms—all to relocate FOUR books within that single facility. **What a waste.**

This proposal is not wanted, not needed, and very wasteful. I urge you to recommend “Do Not Pass” on SB 2307.

Thank you for your consideration,
Vicki Voldal Rosenau
Valley City, ND