

SB 2307 - In Opposition

February 9, 2025

Chairman and Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I have significant concerns regarding SB2307 and how its consequences will impact libraries throughout North Dakota. Below are my reasons for opposing this proposed bill.

- This bill would require libraries throughout North Dakota to either build costly barriers to restrict patron's access to collections, or possibly prohibit minors from entering their building all together, to ensure compliance with the law
- Most high-schoolers, who are essential for keeping libraries open during nights and weekends, would now be prohibited from working at public libraries due to being under 18.
- The cost of litigation, that is sure to follow if passed, is valuable funds that can be better spent elsewhere. Similar bills passed in other states have cost political subdivisions from tens, to hundreds of thousands of dollars to defend. Considering that state and federal courts have ruled near unanimously in favor of protecting patrons access to challenged books, this bill will serve to only cost taxpayers more, while providing them with less.

SB 2307 is unreasonable legislation that goes against the freedoms and values that North Dakotans cherish. **Free people must be able to read freely.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dylan Gonser
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