



1 **Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2307**

2 Chairwoman Larson and, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify
3 today. I am here to express my **opposition to Senate Bill 2307**, which seeks to impose broad
4 oversight and penalties on school districts, public libraries, and state agencies regarding the
5 presence of materials deemed “explicit sexual material.” My opposition doesn’t come in
6 protecting our children – it is in the unreasonable and extreme approach that is being taken in
7 this bill and in many others in many committees regarding how we approach something that one
8 deems undesirable. While in this bill we don’t want our children learning lessons of obscenity,
9 as a mother, I find it no less obscene to have a society where we cannot show our children how
10 to appropriately resolve disagreements, come to a resolution, and find a way toward amiable
11 common ground before calling in the attorney general.

12 While **protecting minors from inappropriate content is important**, this bill **overreaches,**
13 **disregards local control, undermines due process, and creates unnecessary bureaucratic**
14 **burdens** on schools and libraries.

15 **Key Concerns**

16 **1. Bypasses Local Governance & Due Process**

- 17 • This bill allows **any person** to file a complaint with the Attorney General **without**
18 **requiring them to first engage in the school district or library’s established review**
19 **process.**
- 20 • **Local school boards and library boards**—elected by and accountable to their
21 communities—are **best positioned to handle concerns about library materials.**
- 22 • This bill **disempowers local decision-making** and **subjects schools and libraries to**
23 **state-level oversight without local resolution first being attempted.**

24 **2. Creates an Unworkable System & Unfunded Mandates**

- 25 • The bill mandates that schools and libraries **continuously review** their collections to
26 ensure compliance, without providing additional **funding, staffing, or guidance** to do so.
- 27 • **Reporting requirements and AG reviews** create an administrative burden that **diverts**
28 **resources away from education and library services.**

29 **3. Unclear & Subjective Standards for “Explicit Material”**

- 30 • The bill uses broad, subjective terms that can **be applied inconsistently or weaponized**
31 **for censorship** beyond protecting minors.
- 32 • What **one parent or patron** considers offensive may be **widely accepted as educational**
33 **or age-appropriate by professional educators and librarians.**
- 34 • This could lead to **unnecessary book bans and restrictions on historical, scientific, or**
35 **health-related content.** Furthermore, this can put our students at a competitive

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1 disadvantage. Vendors may see North Dakota’s laws as cumbersome nuisance that
2 simply isn’t worth it in comparison to the business elsewhere in states with more
3 realizing that the policies in place are working and simply not work with us anymore
4 thereby having our students losing out on important resources.

5 **4. Severe Financial Penalties That Harm Schools & Libraries**

- 6 • The **Attorney General is granted authority to halt funding to entire schools or**
7 **libraries** based on a single complaint or violation.
- 8 • This level of financial punishment is **disproportionate**, especially when **districts may**
9 **have already acted in good faith** to address concerns. Schools are one of the largest
10 employers of every community – to cut off funding based on the complaint of one person
11 without local due process and putting the paychecks of local patrons at risk is
12 unreasonable.

13 **5. Sets a Dangerous Precedent**

- 14 • **Public institutions should not be governed by the most extreme voices**, yet this bill
15 allows **any person—regardless of their connection to a school or library—to escalate**
16 **complaints directly to the Attorney General.**
- 17 • This invites **frivolous complaints** and **political interference** into educational spaces.

18 **Conclusion**

19 While I fully support the **age-appropriate curation of educational materials, Senate Bill 2307**
20 **is an excessive and punitive measure** that:

- 21 • **Strips local control from school boards and librarians.**
- 22 • **Imposes vague, subjective standards on educational materials.**
- 23 • **Threatens school and library funding over isolated complaints.**
- 24 • **Creates administrative burdens that detract from education and literacy efforts.**

25 I urge this committee to **oppose** Senate Bill 2307 and seek a more balanced approach that
26 respects **local governance, due process, and the expertise of educators and librarians.**

27 Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.