

Hearing speech

I stand before you today to present the amended version of **Senate Bill 2307**, a necessary and measured step in **protecting minors from exposure to obscene and sexually explicit materials** in schools and libraries. While some changes have been made by the **Legislative Council**, the intent remains the same: **to ensure that public institutions funded by taxpayers are not venues for exposing children to harmful content**

Libraries and schools were once places of **safety and learning**, but over time, **activists and loopholes in existing law** have allowed inappropriate materials to be introduced into these spaces. Some have argued that this legislation constitutes **book banning or censorship**, but the reality is far from that. **This bill does not ban books; it simply ensures that explicit content is not easily accessible to minors.**

In fact, opponents of this bill have unintentionally proven our point. At a **public hearing in western North Dakota**, community members attempted to **read aloud passages from books available to minors in public libraries**—but they were stopped because the material was deemed too obscene for a public setting. If this content is inappropriate for adults in a public hearing, how can we justify making it readily available to children?

Some have raised concerns that this bill removes books from libraries. **That is not the case.** The bill does not call for an outright ban but instead establishes a **clear and reasonable process for relocation** to ensure that explicit materials are placed in areas where they are **not easily accessible to minors.**

The legislation requires that:

1. If a **parent, guardian, or concerned patron** identifies material that may be obscene or harmful to minors, the concern will follow the **local review process**. To the point of superintendent and school board that is the point of moving it to the next step
2. If the concern escalates, the **Attorney General's office** will review the material and provide an opinion.
3. If the material is deemed obscene, it **must be relocated** to a **restricted section** of the library, such as:
 - o A **cabinet** with signage.
 - o A **roped-off or designated section** where only adults may access it.

This ensures that libraries **retain the materials** for legitimate research or adult access while preventing inappropriate exposure to minors.

Why Relocation Matters

Scientific research and firsthand accounts have demonstrated the **harmful effects of pornography on developing minds**. Dr. James Dobson, who served on the **U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography**, found that:

- **91% of minors** who encountered pornography did so **unintentionally**, often while browsing for school-related research.

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- A **single exposure** to explicit material can trigger an **addiction stronger than cocaine or heroin** in some individuals.

This is not about **limiting free speech**—it is about **setting reasonable boundaries** in spaces where children learn and grow.

North Dakota: A Haven for Family's

North Dakota has an opportunity to become a **leader in child protection**, ensuring that our schools and libraries are places of **education, not exploitation**. Families are increasingly fleeing states that push explicit materials on children. By passing this legislation, we send a clear message: **North Dakota stands for the protection of children, not for the agendas of activists.**

It is important to recognize that **most librarians and educators are dedicated individuals** who serve their communities well. This bill is **not an attack on libraries**—it is a necessary safeguard against the **small number of activists** who exploit legal loopholes to push an agenda that does not align with the values of our families and communities.

A Call to Action

Senate Bill 2360 is not about banning books, but it is about **common-sense protections** for our children. I urge the committee members to **support this bill in its amended form**, ensuring that explicit materials are placed **where they belong: away from minors, while still remaining accessible to adults.**

I humbly ask for a Do Pass recommendation.

I stand for questions.

Senate Bill 2307 and SB 2380

Pornography Causes Depression and Mental Health Problems

- Youth who are depressed or have delinquent tendencies are known to have higher levels of pornography exposure.
- Pornography use is a recognized predictor of depression.
- Younger age at first pornography viewing is associated with frequency of adult mental health problems.

Pornography Causes Permissive Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors

- Pornography use, even when infrequent, is associated with abnormal behaviors.
- In males, early exposure to pornography predicted "permissive sexual norms, sexual harassment perpetration" and various forms of sexual behavior.
- Even when controlling for other factors, pornography consumption influences sexual behaviors.
- Adolescents who are exposed to pornography are more likely to have multiple sexual partners.
- Early exposure to pornography is associated with initiation of sexual behavior at a younger age.
- In young men, pornography viewing is associated with higher rates of sexual coercion and violent or abusive behavior.
- Pornography consumption is associated with negative gender attitudes.
- Pornography exposure is associated with substance abuse.

Pornography Contributes to Poor Academic Performance

- Exposure to pornography has been shown to interfere with working memory in a way not seen with exposure to other stimuli, including negative stimuli.
- Sexually explicit images affect the brain's emotion/attention processing.
- In early adolescent boys, pornography exposure was associated with reduced academic performance.

The Brain on Porn

- Brains are hardwired to learn, and learning changes the brain
- Dopamine, produced by the brain, drives learning and curiosity and can become addictive
- Addiction changes the brain; cocaine brain and sexually-addicted brain look the same
- The brain sees explicit material the same way whether cartoon, drawing, picture, or video
- Exposure to pornography traumatizes children's brains
- Trauma reduces brain matter by 10-12%
- Long-term porn exposure reduces brain gray matter

“Exposing children to pornography should be forbidden and better regulated, as it is violating their spiritual boundaries and evolving beliefs around body, sexual development and intimate relationships, in a similar way that direct sexual abuse on their body does. If this trauma is not identified and processed promptly, the survivor runs the risk of reenacting as an attempt to resolve what once left him or her powerless, or of even engaging in similar criminal behaviors”

--Dr. Caroline Giroux, psychiatrist (2021)

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SB2380 and SB2307

The Research-Backed Links Between Pornography & Child Sexual Abuse

- Pornography Feeds the Growing Appetites of Child Sexual Abusers
- Child Sexual Abusers Use Pornography to Create Plans of Action
- Child Sexual Abusers' Tastes for Pornographic Content Depicting Younger Performers Increase Over Time
- Abusers Point Children to Pornography as a Way to Groom and "Train" Their Victims
- Pornography Normalizes Deviant and Dangerous Sexual Behaviors
- Pornography Has Been Found to Be Connected to a Rise in Child-on-Child Harmful Sexual Behavior

Source:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/the-research-backed-connections-betweenpornography-and-child-sexual-abuse>

"In this day and age, you will never find a man who has sexually offended who is not deeply steeped in pornography prior to offending. So pornography is the common denominator among all sexual offenses."

Jon Uhler

Therapist with 30 years experience counseling both victims and perpetrators

Full interview:

<https://rumble.com/v27luo0-is-pedophilia-becoming-normalized-a-therapist-for-sexualoffenders-weighs-i.html>