

**Testimony in Support of SB 2307**

**Senate Judiciary Committee**

**February 10, 2025**

Madam Chair Larson and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Brittany Boehm and I am here to briefly share some relevant information regarding the American Library Association, the “ALA”.

The ALA has a list of Top 10 Most Challenged Books. The books on the 2023 list have been challenged because they contain sexually explicit graphics and/or language, profanity, violence, LGBTQIA+ material, depictions of rape and incest, and drug use. These books are widely available in public libraries and schools across ND (see attached). The ALA promotes these books during a “Banned Books Week” where they spotlight the books and promote activities and ways for people to get involved to keep them accessible.[1]

Two examples of these books are Let’s Talk About It by Erika Moen & Matthew Nolan (targeting children ages 14 and up) and Sex is a Funny Word by Cory Silverberg (not on the list, but a very similar book available in ND libraries and targeting children ages 8-11). These books contain graphic images and language normalizing STIs and sexting, encouraging and teaching sexual behaviors, and likening pornography to a “fun, sugary treat” (LTAI p.165).

The ALA is not interested in protecting children. A statement on their website says, “The ALA stringently and unequivocally maintains that libraries and librarians have an obligation to resist efforts that systematically exclude materials dealing with any subject matter, including sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation”. [2] Another states, “The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users”. [3]

The ALA is not a friend of parents either. As stated in an article from Daily Citizen [4], “instead of taking parents’ concerns seriously, the organization’s Office for Intellectual Freedom has advice

for librarians about how to fight back against parents who believe certain books might be inappropriate for children.[5] It dramatically labels parents' involvement as “censorship” and “book banning.” The ALA believes children should be able to check out whatever books they want and that they deserve “privacy and confidentiality”- including from parents - in those decisions.[6]

Thank you for your time, and please give this bill a Do Pass recommendation.

Brittany Boehm

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[1] [Banned Books Week | Banned Books](https://www.ala.org/bbooks/banned) <https://www.ala.org/bbooks/banned>

[2] [Access to Library Resources and Services | ALA](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/access) <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/access>

[3] [Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights | ALA](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/minors) <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/minors>

[4] [American Library Association Chooses Marxist Lesbian as President-Elect - Daily Citizen](https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/american-library-association-chooses-marxist-lesbian-as-president-elect/)  
<https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/american-library-association-chooses-marxist-lesbian-as-president-elect/>

[5] [How to Respond to Challenges and Concerns about Library Resources | ALA](https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/respond)  
<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/respond>

[6] [Library Bill of Rights | ALA](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill) <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>

## Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2023

1. *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe

Available in:

Grand Forks Public Library  
North Dakota State Library  
Fargo Public Library  
Minot Public Library  
Dickinson Public Library

2. *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson

Available in:

Dickinson High School Library  
Grand Forks Public Library  
McKenzie County Public Library  
Bismarck Public Library  
Minot Public Library

3. *This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson

Available in:

Leach Public Library  
Fargo Public Library  
Minot Public Library  
Bismarck Public Library

4. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

Available in:

West Fargo Public Library  
Bismarck Public Library  
Mandan Public Library  
Minot Public Library  
Dickinson High School Library  
Hatton Public School Library  
Hope School Library  
Larimore High School Library  
Midway High School Library  
North Dakota Youth Correctional Library  
Iris Swedlund School and Public Library of Velva

5. *Flamer* by Mike Curato

Available in:

West Fargo Public Library  
Dickinson Area Public Library  
Dickinson High School Library

Minot Public Library  
Leach Public Library

6. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

Available in:

West Fargo Public Library  
North Dakota State Library  
Harvey Public Library  
Grafton High School Library  
Dickinson Area Public Library  
Cavalier School Library  
Minot Public Library  
Beulah Public Library  
Washburn Public Library

7. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews

Available in:

Dickinson Area Public Library  
West Fargo Public Library  
Minot Public Library  
Morton Mandan Public Library  
McLean-Mercer Regional Library-Riverdale  
Underwood Public Library  
New Salem High School  
Turtle Lake-Mercer School Library  
Grand Forks Public Library  
Larimore High School Library  
Midway High School Library  
North Dakota Youth Correctional Library

8. *Tricks* by Ellen Hopkins

Available in:

Minot Public Library  
Center Oliver Library  
Dickinson Area Public Library  
Finley-Sharon School Library  
Grafton High School Library  
Grand Forks Public Library  
Hope School Library  
Leach Public Library  
Midway High School Library  
North Border-Pembina School and City Library  
North Border-Walhalla School Library  
North Dakota State Hospital-Health Sciences Library

North Dakota Youth Correctional Library  
Northwood School Library  
Iris Swedlund School and Public Library of Velva

9. *Let's Talk About It* by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan

Available in:

Dickinson Area Public Library  
Grand Forks Public Library  
West Fargo Public Library  
Minot Public Library

10. *Sold* by Patricia McCormick

Available in:

Fargo Public Library  
Minot Public Library  
United Tribes Technical College Library  
Saint Mary's Central High School  
Beulah High School Library  
Theodore Jamerson Elementary School  
New Salem High School  
Turtle Lake-Mercer School Library