

I am writing in opposition to SB 2307. This bill is unnecessary, takes away local control, and negatively impacts public and school libraries as well as businesses. It should not be enacted as ND law.

Libraries already have collection development policies to carefully select materials for patrons. In addition, they also have policies that allow patrons to challenge materials that they deem inappropriate, with a specific set of standards that allow for review and removal if materials do not meet criteria. This bill is not necessary; library policies are already in place.

As presented, this bill does not include any stipulation about who can challenge a book or what process is to be followed when determining if that book should be removed from a collection. This means that people from out of state, or outside a local community, can come in and dictate what books can and cannot be read by local patrons. Local patrons should not have their reading options dictated by people from out of state.

As a school library media specialist, one of my tasks is to educate students on finding reliable, non-biased, accurate sources of information for research. The state databases provide a source that is easy to access and can be used for research across vast topics. If this bill is enacted, it will limit or eliminate access to this valuable resource for our students.

Finally, there are considerations for business in additions to libraries. Target, Wal-Mart, grocery stores, bookstores all would be affected. Currently, Target, Wal-Mart, and Barnes and Noble all have children's books sections in close proximity to adult book sections. If this bill is enacted, stores would need to get rid of all young adult and adult literature, lest a minor accidentally happen upon a book with content someone somewhere might deem inappropriate. If Barnes and Noble wanted to continue to have adult, young adult, and children's literature in one building, they would need to ask for ID before anyone could enter their store and children would not be allowed. No more family programming, children's story time, or coffee/book dates for families.

This bill is unnecessary, takes away local control, and causes a burden on libraries and businesses. I encourage you to oppose SB 2307.

Thank you for your time.

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