

Sen. Diane Larson, chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

I write in opposition to the proposed legislation, SB 2307.

I have been a constant user and beneficiary of public libraries since 1961, when the public library in my then-small southern California hometown was in a clothing store. I have recently concluded a 33-year career as an academic librarian and I serve the West Fargo Public Library (WFPL) as a member of its board of directors, most recently as the board's president.

What the WFPL has been doing continues to work, as exemplified by its ever-increasing circulation statistics, door counts, and attendance at its many programs. The citizens of West Fargo know that the physical and electronic resources provided by the WFPL, and paid for by them, match their values and needs, even as statistics show that the city is underserved by the library's space and collections. The proposed legislation would do nothing less than place unnecessary and unasked-for barriers to citizens' access to information as well as place an undue burden on the library's budget, restricting its ability to provide necessary services to the community and forcing it to spend sparse money on a construction project and age-verification software.

The proposed legislation is not being brought forward by the citizens of the community but, rather, is the product of outside agitators who have no interest, vested or otherwise, in the continued success of the City of West Fargo and its library or in the promotion of good citizenship among its residents.

Lawrence S Schwartz