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Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am reaching out to you to oppose SB 2307,

Hello, my name is Melissa Lloyd and I've been a public librarian for 12 years. As a public librarian and as parent, I understand the importance of protecting children. I was a children's librarian for 8 of those 12 years, and every day I had conversations with parents and children on the books they wanted and didn't want to read. One of my first questions to a patron looking for a book is "What do you like to do for fun?" This question was followed up with more questions, regarding the interest, reading level, and acceptability of any book in the libraries collection.

Some parents didn't want their kids to read books about magic. No problem. Some parents didn't want books where the animals behaved like humans. Understood. Some parents didn't want their kids to read Graphic Novels because they didn't believe they were good books. To each their own. My goal has been and always will be to serve my community, improve literacy skills, and instill a love of reading.

Everyone is different, with different needs, and parents and caregivers have different questions that need to be answered. Librarians respect every decision a parent makes when it came to their child's reading choices.

As Librarians knowledge of the collection and interactions with parents, caregivers, and kids shapes the books selection choices that would circulate, as well as provide reliable information sources to aid parents with difficult questions. Parents and children have the freedom to choose what books they want or don't want to read. A Librarian or a Legislative body should not take that away from them.

SB 2307 is taking the approach that parents can't parent, and that librarians can't aid parents with those decisions. I've had many discussions with parents and patrons on the importance of their freedom to choose what they read. Emphasizing that if there is a book they have an "issue" with no matter what it is, the library has a system in place to address it. The Collection Development policy is a system that determines how and why the library purchases books. A Request for Reconsideration Form is the procedure for anyone to fill out who doesn't think a book belongs in the collection. SB2307 is redundant as most libraries have these standards

already in place. Librarians encourage conversations about books and their appropriateness. We are a society where information flows freely, and part of a librarian's job and training requires us to sift through information and provide a variety of reliable sources so that our patrons can create their own informed decision. SB 2307 eliminates that policy and will be a huge waste of the Attorney General's time.

SB 2307's definition of Sexually Explicit materials is too broad. I have talked with patrons who believed a Christian Romance was too explicit because the main characters kissed. I've had little old ladies come in and ask if we have more books like "50 Shades of Grey" because they like the "spiciness" of it. Both patrons were "reasonable adults" but had very different judgments when it came to the sexual explicitness of the materials in question.

Libraries are for families. SB 2307 would restrict access to families. The Bill states that "For the relocation of explicit sexual material in the library to an area in the library inaccessible to minors". We have a historic 1903 Carnegie Library, with limited space. Our children's library is located downstairs, and our adult library is upstairs. The children's area is much smaller than our adult section, to make sure we have an excellent collection for everyone. We house the Teen and Young Adult Collection upstairs. We also have patron computers upstairs, and children come in after school, and on the weekends to use the computers. Restricting access to computers and to the collection would not be feasible for our library.

Please vote No on SB 2307.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Melissa Lloyd

Assistant Director

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