



**Testimony in Opposition to SB2307**  
**Presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Prepared by Jenna Kahly, Library Director, West Fargo Public Library**  
**Friday, Feb. 7, 2025**

1 Senator Dianne Larson, Chair and members of the Judiciary Committee,

2 I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 2307. I have worked in libraries for 20  
3 years in various roles at every level. What I've learned during that time is that every person who  
4 enters a library has their own goals, values, and needs. We, as librarians, are doing our job well  
5 when we connect people with the most appropriate information, media, and entertainment for  
6 their unique situations.

7 Library workers take seriously our responsibility to protect and enrich the lives of children. We also  
8 take seriously the responsibility of ensuring all members of our community have access to a  
9 comprehensive collection of materials, resources, and opportunities that help them achieve  
10 their goals, strengthen our communities, and promote lifelong learning.

11 In recent years, our library has seen significant growth in usage, with more people using  
12 traditional library services than ever before. Circulation has increased more than 61% since 2019.  
13 In 2024, nearly 70% of our circulation was of traditional physical library materials checked out  
14 from our building.

15 Our residents trust and love their librarians and place value on access to knowledge, literacy  
16 programs, and the public services that our library provides. We do our job well.

17 The West Fargo Public Library has robust policies and procedures in place to ensure materials in  
18 our popular collection are carefully curated, appropriate for our library, and placed in the  
19 proper collection.

20 Before an item is placed in our collection, it goes through multiple levels of review by our team  
21 of professionals following professional standards and our Collection Management Policy.  
22 Materials are regularly reviewed while they are in our collection, as they are checked in and  
23 during our weeding process.

24 Our robust policies and procedures include a formal request for reconsideration process. In the  
25 last 8+ years, we have not received a single request for reconsideration voicing opposition to an  
26 item from our residents or library users. Our patrons have confidence in our staff and collection  
27 management processes. They continue to use the library more than ever before. Our policies  
28 and procedures are working as written.

29 This legislation would impose unnecessary barriers and financial implications for libraries like West  
30 Fargo Public Library, which already have policies in place for collection management and are  
31 doing our job well. Changes would cause significant and costly burdens on our library, added  
32 barriers for residents, unnecessary structural changes to our humble facility, and limitations on  
33 resources available to our growing patron base.

34 To comply with the bill, all youth and adult materials must be physically separated. Doing this in  
35 our library would result in:

- 36 • At least a 25% reduction in non-youth materials to allow all of them to fit upstairs
- 37 • Significant construction or renovation costs to create a physical barrier to stop kids from  
38 being able to have access upstairs
- 39 • Youth being denied access to upstairs, which means no youth programs will be  
40 permitted in our meeting rooms
- 41 • Youth being denied access to public computers, as they may need to move upstairs as  
42 well, into one of our meeting rooms

43 Implementing this bill would create a domino effect of issues with accessibility for patrons,  
44 especially elderly patrons, those with mobility issues, and families.

- 45 • To ensure children cannot go upstairs using our elevator, it would need to be operated  
46 by staff key access only, which means adults with mobility issues needing to get upstairs  
47 will require a staff person to accompany them.
- 48 • Children and families may not have access to a restroom when visiting the library, as our  
49 primary restrooms are upstairs. Downstairs restroom access could be lost at any time, as  
50 those bathrooms are not part of the library's lease and belong to the school.
- 51 • Parents will no longer be able to have their child with them when browsing the adult  
52 collection. This is unsafe and a violation of our unattended child policy.

53 The bill's language would require significant investment in changes to electronic resources or  
54 would prevent us from offering them at all.

- 55 • A recent quote to provide age verification to some of our databases like  
56 Libby/Overdrive would cost \$4500 just for the first year, with annual subscription costs  
57 increasing overtime.
- 58 • Significant cost of the required age-verification software to continue offering  
59 Libby/OverDrive would result in the reduction of other library services and funds for  
60 programs like our Summer Reading Program for children.

61 In conclusion, the West Fargo Public Library is an example of one of hundreds of North Dakota  
62 libraries that already implement strong policies and are trusted by taxpayers but would greatly  
63 suffer if this bill was enacted.

64 As a Library Director and a mother, I firmly believe that this bill would not enhance child  
65 protection but would instead create unnecessary barriers to access, eliminate essential library  
66 services, and disrupt the very structure that makes the local library a welcoming place for all.

67 I urge a Do Not Pass on this bill. Please allow libraries to continue serving our communities  
68 effectively and efficiently, as we currently do. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jenna Kahly, Library Director

West Fargo Public Library