

February 10, 2025

North Dakota Legislative
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to SB2307.

I am a resident of Mandan, North Dakota and a frequent library user. My children and I both enjoy visiting the Mandan and Bismarck libraries. I also access digital library resources – books, audiobooks, and magazines – using the Libby app because my library is part of the North Dakota Digital Consortium.

I write in opposition to this bill because it is unnecessary and will create an unreasonable burden on libraries. Libraries do not have the resources to construct a separate or locked area for content fitting the vague definition of “explicit sexual materials.” Additionally, the North Dakota Digital Consortium would be forced to discontinue its participation in the Libby app because there is no age check for accessing the variety of digital materials.

SB2307 poses significant threats to intellectual freedom and the right to access information. Public libraries provide vital community resources and access to a wide range of materials catering to diverse interests and needs. By restricting access to content, we risk undermining the very essence of what libraries stand for – the free exchange of ideas and knowledge.

The legislature should continue to allow local libraries to address the content of their collections. Individual libraries should respond to requests for materials to be reviewed and or removed based on that library’s policies and procedures. The state need not be involved.

SB2307, while well-intentioned, risks infringing on fundamental rights and freedoms. I respectfully request that the committee reject this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Diane Wehrman
Mandan, North Dakota