

## **Testimony in Opposition to SB 2307**

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 2307, a misguided attempt at censorship that threatens the intellectual freedom of all North Dakotans. This bill would require libraries to remove vaguely defined “explicit” materials, potentially restricting access to a wide range of books, digital resources, and other educational materials.

One of the most alarming issues with SB 2307 is its lack of clarity and enforceability. Even the bill’s sponsor has failed to provide a clear framework for implementation, instead suggesting an arbitrary system of locked cabinets for certain books. This approach not only raises constitutional concerns but also places librarians in the impossible position of censoring materials based on undefined criteria.

Furthermore, SB 2307 is a direct violation of First Amendment rights. The U.S. Supreme Court has long upheld the principle that the government cannot restrict access to information based on subjective viewpoints. Removing or restricting books from public circulation exposes North Dakota libraries to costly legal challenges and undermines the fundamental freedoms our democracy depends on.

Public libraries exist to serve diverse communities with a wide range of perspectives. Censorship laws like SB 2307 set a dangerous precedent, allowing government overreach into what individuals can read, learn, and explore. I respectfully ask this committee to reject this bill and stand in defense of intellectual freedom and constitutional rights for all North Dakotans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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