

Thank you, Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary committee for the opportunity to give my testimony. My name is Karen Krenz, I am from District 1, in Williston and a mother of 3 boys. I was a teacher and counselor for 23 years in many districts in ND. I am asking that you please RENDER a DO PASS SB2360.

There is a movement across our country. Many of the same books are popping up all over the US and ND. All these “recommendations” are coming from the same organization. They are coming from an organization call America Library Association, the ALA. The ALA has a list of “The Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2021”. ALL these books are scattered across ND. For example, “The Hate U Give” by Angie Thomas, which is a book that contains inflammatory racial commentary; frequent profanity; and inexplicit sexual activities, is in 40 school and public libraries across ND, including ND Youth Correctional Library. Interestingly enough, majority of the books on this list have a publishing date of 2015-2020. The ALA does not have the protection of innocence for minors anywhere on their radar. They believe that all INDIVIDUALS regardless of AGE should have access to any and ALL BOOKS. The following is from their website:

Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

The ALA supports equal and equitable access to all library resources and services by users of all ages. Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources and services available to other

users is in violation of the ALA Library Bill of Rights (which is not a legal document but a statement of principles. WBSD #7 is using the Library Bill of Rights verbatim in our school policy as the schools “Library Bill of Rights”.) The ALA **opposes** all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials and facilities based on the age of the library users.

The ALA is not a friend of the parents either. As stated in an article from Daily Citizen, which I have included in my testimony, instead of taking parents’ concerns seriously, the organization’s Office for Intellectual Freedom has advice for librarians about how to fight back against parents who believe certain books might be inappropriate for children. It dramatically labels parents involvement “censorship” and “book banning.” ALA believes children should be able to check out whatever books they want and that they deserve “privacy and confidentiality”- including from parents- in those decisions.

As I read the next paragraphs, keep in mind that this organization and person, is the third party that is having the influence on what type of books we choose for our kids in many if not all school and public libraries’ in our state of ND.

The ALA recently announced that Emily Drabinski is the 2022-2023 president elect. She will serve as president of the organization beginning in July 2023.

Drabinski tweeted “I just cannot believe a Marxist lesbian who believes that collective power is possible to build and can be wielded for better world is president-elect of the ALA.”

In her campaign, she stated:

So many of us find ourselves at the ends of our worlds, The consequences for decades of unchecked climate change, class war, white supremacy, and imperialism have led us here. If we want a world that includes public goods like the library, we must organize our collective power and wield it. The ALA offers us a set of tools that can harness our energies and build those capacities.

Social and economic justice and radial equity requires that we make a material difference in the lives of library workers and patrons who have for too long been denied power and opportunity on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, national origin, spoken language and disability.

Dranbinski said she would “advance a public agenda that puts organization for justice at the center of the library.”

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue and for your service to the state of North Dakota.

