

I strongly urge you to vote in opposition of SB2123. It infringes on an individual's freedom to read and criminalizes the work of library workers. As you know, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that Congress "shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press". Similarly, the first two Library Bill of Rights from the American Library Association state, "I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

"II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." This bill would force censorship, which libraries are fundamentally against.

There are countless works of literature that contain sexually explicit depictions. Libraries across the state would be forced to restrict patrons of all ages from the freedom to chose to read classics such as "1984". They may be forced to remove these books from the collection altogether, wasting thousands of tax dollars. Or it could be interpreted that the library staff have to monitor what patrons can check out, which violates their privacy.

The intention of this law, it seems, it to protect children from exposure to sexually explicit depictions. This bill is not necessary to accomplish the goal. Parents and guardians can monitor what their child is checking out from the library. It is a patron's decision, and by extension their

parent/guardian's decision, what they choose to read. It should not be the decision of the state or the library.

If the intention above is correct, I believe this bill will have a minimal result. If a minor wants to view or read perverted sexual depictions, a majority will use the internet, not books and magazines. There are already acts and laws such as the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) as well as the North Dakota Century Code 12.1-27.1 that help protect from this.

I hope that you will consider how this bill will ineffectively fight the issue it's trying to while also going against the principles of libraries. Please protect our freedom and vote in opposition of SB 2123.

Sincerely,

Wesley Byzewski