

January 21, 2023

Senator Diane Larson, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Larson and Senate Judiciary Committee,

Please vote "Do Not Pass" on Senate Bill 2123.

As a North Dakota citizen, voter, parent, and library director, I strongly oppose this bill. Not only does it violate my 1st Amendment rights and yours, it violates the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read declaration. SB 2123 potentially criminalizes public library staff members for following the guiding principles and ethics of the profession.

Moreover, as a parent, it is my right and responsibility - and mine alone - to determine what my children - and only my children - can read or view. Parents have the right and the responsibility to oversee their children's choices at the library, online, and anywhere else they may go. It is not up to the government to overrule a parent's rights.

Not only does this proposed bill limit children's and teen's access to information, it inadvertently limits adult access to materials as well. Families visit the library as a group activity where there is something for everyone. They often search for books together. This means that children have access to the entire library and, therefore, this bill affects every area of the library. Regulating what may or may not be included in the library collection takes away my freedom to read and it takes away your right as well. Needlessly.

Please remember that freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Vote 'Do Not Pass' on SB 2123 for my freedom and yours.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wendt

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