

My name is Randi Monley, and I am the Children's Librarian at the Minot Public Library in Minot, North Dakota. I have worked in the Minot Public Library for 10 years with the past 7 years being devoted to children's services. I also hold a Bachelors of Arts degree in Literature, and I have my own children to raise. I strongly oppose SB 2123.

First, the entirety of the library would be an "**establishment frequented by minors, or where minors are or may be invited as a part of the general public.**" The children's library is not the only place the children are found in the library. At the Minot Public Library, children ages 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult, which means that the children are often in the adult library with their caregiver to find materials appropriate for those over the age of 18. SB 2123 not only affects libraries but also local businesses. If the general population does not have access to materials that they are looking for, more money would be spent through online retailers, such as Amazon. This would negatively impact the financial soundness of North Dakota.

Second, SB 2123 does not have a caveat for works of art or scientific/biology/sex education books. It is very disturbing to me that the population of North Dakota would be shielded from valuable works of art including Michelangelo's works in the Sistine Chapel.

Another part of SB 2123 that is alarming is "**the exposed cover or available content.**" Therefore, it is not just the covers themselves, but the content of each book or periodical that comes into question. Classic works of literature would be discarded under this wording; including "The Odyssey" by Homer and "The Awakening" by Kate Chopin. With a Bachelors in Arts degree in Literature, I am appalled that these works and others would be unavailable to me or my children at the public library.

Another problem with SB 2123 is the vagueness of the statement "**exploit sex, lust, or perversion.**" What does "exploit" mean in this context? Who will answer the question "what is perversion?" The meaning of these words are different based on the individual consuming the material. It is the individual's personal freedom to read and consume whatever they choose. The library has options for all individuals without judgment.

Last, the government nor the library have been called to serve in loco parentis. The library maintains access for all patrons and families to make their own decisions on what is correct for their children. As a Children's Librarian, I feel it is the duty of the caregiver to be a part of their child's reading and viewing experience. As a parent, I am happy to have my children come to me with materials they want to check out, so that I can read, understand, question, and foster conversation with them. Therefore, I do agree that material should be accessible to all ages. It is my right as a parent to my children to have control over what they experience. It is not the right of North Dakota or any government to usurp my judgment regarding my children.