

Written Testimony from Board Members for the Friends of the West Fargo Public Library
Contact: friendsofthewfpl@gmail.com
In opposition of SB2123
January 22, 2023

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

We are Board Members for the Friends of the West Fargo Public Library. Our purpose is to promote the functions, resources, services and needs of the West Fargo Public Library. Our organization assists the library overall, as well as library staff and library board members. We also help to raise funding for library programming and outreach to the community of West Fargo.

We are writing to communicate our opposition to SB2123, which criminalizes the display of objectionable materials. These include things like magazines, pamphlets, and written descriptions. This bill is based on an individual's own feelings and opinions about what is objectionable material. This could be anything, including National Geographic Magazine or even the Bible. And, as it interferes with individual freedoms guaranteed by the United States Constitution, it follows that this bill is unconstitutional.

Logistically, this bill is also a nightmare for libraries and library staff across North Dakota. A librarian can go to jail and face a fine based on someone's personal opinion which is entirely subjective. Librarians are educated in curating and maintaining a collection of materials that meet the needs of all individuals. This bill would prevent them from doing their job as well as prevent individuals from obtaining the resources they need.

Senate Judiciary Committee, we urge you to vote 'do not pass' on SB2123. As Board Members for the Friends of the West Fargo Library we strongly oppose SB2123. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Board Members for the Friends of the West Fargo Public Library
Donelle Richmond, Treasurer
Sara Westall, Secretary