

January 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Due to the likelihood of administrative retaliation including the loss of my career, I must state that I am testifying on behalf of myself, not as a teacher in Williston Basin School District #7.

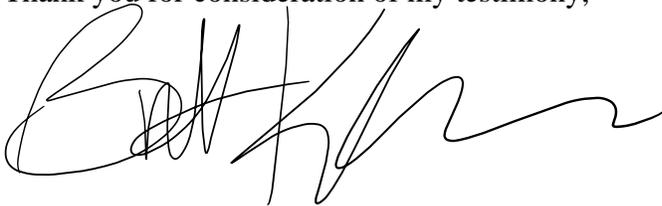
I did not obtain a second bachelor's degree (elementary education) to be coerced by a school district into being complicit with the distribution of pornographic material to children.

Currently in my community's school district there are several books being challenged over obscene content (23 currently, before the board disallowed any further challenges). I have read a few of these books and am appalled at the content. One such book I read is *Looking for Alaska* by John Green. This book was flagged by parents in the community for mature content. For some background, this book is found in the Middle School (making it accessible to 12-14 year old students). This book features language such as God/Christ, ass, asshole, shit, dick, damn, goddamn, bastard, piss, bitch, and fuck and its colorful derivatives (more than 30+ times). If that weren't enough, the book also features a graphic oral sex scene. This language and content is not even close to appropriate for the committee it is being read in, but remains even more so inappropriate for a 12 year old child to be reading.

As the century code currently reads, a graphic item such as a playboy magazine would need to be wrapped in plastic so that a minor could not see the inappropriate material, BUT if it was in a school library the playboy magazine would be perfectly fine. The exception for the schools was never meant to open the back door to sexually explicit and otherwise profane material, and SB 2123 would be the answer to the problem.

Schools should be an environment where children learn academic skills, NOT an institution where they are exposed to sexually explicit material. Teachers should be allowed to focus on academic content questions from students, not forced to address student questions pertaining to the sexually explicit content within the books provided by the school district libraries.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brittney Kratochvil', written in a cursive style.

Brittney Kratochvil