

Dear Senators:

Please allow me to thank you for all the hard work you do, and for your service to your constituents and to the people of North Dakota.

I am Karen Fay Thompson, long-time Bismarck resident, public library patron, retired librarian, and retired medical writer. I urge this committee to **do not pass SB 2123**.

Here are my reasons, and I write from the heart here. When I was going through puberty, I was lucky that I could talk to my mother about just about anything. She answered my questions willingly and sometimes lent me books or sent me to the library to fill in the gaps or answer questions she couldn't. I never had to learn about sex "out behind the barn."

Not every young person is as fortunate as I was. For this reason public libraries must continue to offer confidential, reliable, and accurate information for young people seeking answers to such personal questions.

If public libraries are hobbled by laws passed through bills such as SB 2123, young people will learn about sex from unreliable sources, the modern equivalent of "out behind the barn." We all want much better resources for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for taking my comments. I appreciate your attention.

Karen Fay Thompson

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