

**Senate Judiciary Public Hearing**  
**January 23rd 2:30pm**  
**SB 2123 - Testimony in Opposition**

Chairman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Whitney Oxendahl, and I am here in opposition of Senate Bill 2123. I oppose this bill because I am a parent of three small children, and this bill aims to limit what books and resources my public library can offer to my family, my children, and my community.

I am also a former member of the Fargo Public Library Board of Directors. The Fargo Public Library is run by an amazing staff of librarians who are professionals with advanced degrees in library science. The librarians overseeing and curating the collection of the hundreds of thousands of books and magazines are professionals, and this bill overrides their credentials while also opening them up to being charged with a class B misdemeanor. Not only that, this bill will impact the recruitment of librarians to our state if we add the potential of criminal charges to their job descriptions.

SB 2123 would create a tremendous and impossible burden on North Dakota librarians to audit their entire collection for this type of content. Content that is subjective and too broadly defined in the bill.

Additionally, the Fargo Public Library already has a Statement of Concern policy for reviewing items in the collection that individuals find concerning. A library committee reviews the statement, and the library board votes on the committee's recommendation.

This bill is not about freedom and liberty, this is about placing restrictions on ideas and information. This bill is about censorship, and I urge you to give SB 2123 a Do Not Pass recommendation.

I'm sure you'll hear some passionate testimony today as we have a community that loves our public libraries. Thank you for the opportunity to share mine.