

Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I have resided in North Dakota all my life. I am from and currently reside in Williston, ND. I obtained a BA in Music/Vocal Performance from Minot State University. I am just beginning my family and plan to send my children into the school system of my community. I am deeply concerned for my children when that time does arrive. There are several books currently in our school library that are beyond inappropriate for minors. If this book were given to a minor by an adult outside of school grounds, I would imagine that legal charges could be brought against the adult in question. I personally have not read all the books on the list; however, I have reviewed several of them. One of them is *Identical* by Ellen Hopkins. This book is very graphic in its depiction of incest, abuse of a daughter by her father while her twin sister witnesses the abuse. It is described in such detail that it speaks to the father's bodily fluid and how it trickles down his daughter's hand. Then the book goes on to depict how the twin who witnesses the abuse, turns to prostitution, drugs, and alcohol to cope while the twin who is abused turns to self-harm, bulimia/anorexia, and alcohol to cope. Resulting in one of the twins overdosing and passing away. There is very little indication from the title or the back of the book summary to what this book pertains.

I don't believe this material has a place in our public library. Especially without any warning system of checks and balances on who is eligible to check out such material. As a parent, it isn't material that should be offered by my child's school.

I personally, upon reading this material felt ill and found it be very disturbing. The thought of my daughter unknowingly to me or even herself checking out this book from her school library is unconscionable.

I have often found those in opposition, to having not researched into the material in question, or don't understand that this is not a request of banning books. I understand that this material has its place or value for those who have been abused to address their issues and find healing. However, without any warning many individuals who have been abused can argue that these books are a trigger to something that they were not intending to have triggered.

Please stand up for our children and community. Parents already have such a long, tough battle for their children's innocence with the countless entities of which it can be tarnished. That battle should not include our public and school libraries.

Please vote YES on SB 2123.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wilson

Williston, ND