

Do Pass – SB 2360

Dear Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Rebekah Oliver and I write as a private resident of North Dakota. Please recommend a Do Pass on Senate Bill 2360. This bill is critical to protect young children from obscenity – graphic images which cause social, academic, and physical harm. Current laws are not robust; the obscenity problem is a serious present-day reality and must be addressed in order to protect the children of North Dakota.

Research indicates that sexually explicit images affect the structure and the function of the brain^{1,2}. The adolescent brain is thought to be especially sensitive.³ A review paper which summarized research on “the effects of sexually explicit material on adolescents' attitudes, beliefs and behaviors” found that “sexually explicit material is associated with sexual behavior, sexual norms and attitudes, gender attitudes, self-esteem, sexual satisfaction, uncertainty and preoccupation. In addition, the studies reported developmental effects on adolescents' behavioral, cognitive and emotional well-being.”⁴

Please recommend a Do Pass on the bill, and make libraries a safe place for North Dakota’s children.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Oliver

¹ Kühn S and Jürgen Gallinat J. 2014. Brain structure and functional connectivity associated with pornography consumption. *JAMA Psychiatry* 71:827-834.

² Sinke C, Engela J, Veita M, Harmanna U, Hillemacherb T, Kneera J, and Krugera THC. 2020. Sexual cues alter working memory performance and brain processing in men with compulsive sexual behavior. *NeuroImage: Clinical* 102308.

³ Brown JA and Wisco JJ. 2019. The components of the adolescent brain and its unique sensitivity to sexually explicit material. *J Adolescence*. 72:10-13.

⁴ Koletić G. 2017. Longitudinal associations between the use of sexually explicit material and adolescents' attitudes and behaviors: A narrative review of studies. *J Adolescence*. 57:119-133.