

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kimberly Hurst and I reside in District 1. I am asking that you please render a do pass on Senate Bill 2360. As a parent of four children in the public school system I would expect the state of North Dakota to administer century code to protect the innocent minds of children. The type of books I have found on the shelves within the libraries of Williston Basin School District 7 are extremely inappropriate for young minds, and that's putting it mildly. For example, one book the school district has displayed to minors is about a father molesting his daughter in extreme and graphic detail. Under what circumstances would this be considered 'educational'? This is just one of many other inappropriate books that were found. The line between obscene material being displayed in a school library and what I would consider grooming the minds of children, are becoming blurred. In this event, the school district enforces a *policy* for book review that can take up to an entire year to complete, instead of *immediately* reading the contents in concern and making a decision to remove pornographic books from the shelves. With this, I question the school district's integrity to protect our children. Currently, there are 27 books under review in WBSD7, by the time the book review will conclude it will be over a year since the process started. Not to mention, any further books that may be of concern that parents find inappropriate, cannot be reviewed *per policy* until the previous book review is complete, leaving them within arms reach of children to read. The *policy* that is currently in place is not sufficient. The school district's inadequate book review policy and the lack of state law protecting minors from obscene books is the reason we need the proper legislation to safeguard the innocent minds of children in North Dakota. This isn't a matter of preventative measures, it is a matter of *reality* that our children *are* being exposed to sexually explicit material.

As any concerned parent would, you might ask, *where did these books come from and how did they end up on the shelves?* This is where the lack of due diligence of using third parties also

fails to protect the children from obscene material in public schools. A well used third party, the American Library Association, has recently voted in their president, Emily Darbinski. Emily campaigned on the slogan, *“Equity as action, Social and economic justice and racial equity requires that we make a material difference in the lives of library workers and patrons who have for far too long been denied power and opportunity on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, national origin, spoken language, and disability.”* Darbinski said that she would *“advance a public agenda that puts organization for justice at the center of library work.”* -Daily Citizen

Ms Darbinski, a self-proclaimed marxist, made it clear in her campaign that she has an agenda to infect the libraries that use ALA with her ideologies. If I am not mistaken, North Dakota's century code prohibits *critical race theory*, however it lacks the proper detailed legislation needed to protect our children from the infiltration of third party agendas that do not align with our standards and Article VIII of the North Dakota constitution. So I urge you to support the passing of Senate Bill 2360. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for your service to the state of North Dakota.

Kimberly Hurst

