



**Testimony in Opposition to SB 2278
House Education Committee - March 10, 2025**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Gail Reiten and I'm the advocacy chair for Right to Read ND.

Throughout my life, I've seen the power of books and libraries. As a daycare provider, I offered storytimes in my home and volunteered as a library storytime reader. I brought my own children to the Minot Public Library, checking out books for them and for myself. The library became such a large influence on our lives that my daughter grew up to be a library director.

That is why I joined Right to Read ND. Right to Read ND is a nonpartisan group of North Dakota citizens concerned about attempts to limit our access to books and materials in libraries across the state. We believe Senate Bill 2278 is part of a movement that seeks to override the First Amendment right of North Dakotans to access books and materials.

SB 2278 would waste taxpayer dollars and time on a study that would limit the ability of libraries to develop their collections with their local community in mind. It takes away local control from parents, library boards, schools, and communities and inserts the state government into the process.

We trust North Dakota library professionals to make informed decisions on what materials to order and what to weed to best serve their communities. We urge you to give SB 2278 a Do Not Pass recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Gail Reiten
Right to Read ND, Advocacy Chair
righttoreadnd@gmail.com