

Rebecca Needham
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February 8, 2025

Chairwoman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Rebecca Needham, and as a resident of the state of North Dakota and a long-time patron to many of the libraries across the state, I am writing in opposition of SB 2307.

I believe the goal of this bill is to create designated sections in libraries that are “inaccessible to minors.” However, many libraries within the state are one-room spaces that house a wide range of books and materials for all age groups. Additionally, there are bookmobiles throughout the state that function as mobile, scaled-down versions of libraries, offering various resources to individuals of all ages. The primary goal of any library, regardless of its size, should be to provide access to educational, recreational, and cultural materials for all members of the community, regardless of age.

If this bill passes and libraries are mandated to “not maintain in an area accessible to minors a book or any other medium that contains explicit sexual material,” how will one-room libraries and bookmobiles continue to serve their communities? Constructing walls or creating separate spaces to segregate materials is costly and often unfeasible for smaller libraries. Should bookmobiles, which serve the entire community, be forced to choose which age group they will cater to, potentially discriminating against others?

Librarians already adhere to established policies and guidelines when selecting materials for their collections, and they take into account the needs and input of the communities they serve. Passing this bill would undermine the expertise of librarians and the value of local input.

Please do not pass SB 2307.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Needham