



February 12, 2026

Chair and Members
Iowa Senate Technology Committee
Iowa Senate
Des Moines, Iowa

Re: Concerns Regarding Iowa Senate File 2177

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of OverDrive, which partners with public libraries and schools across Iowa and the country to provide digital access to books, audiobooks, and educational materials. Some of these public library systems include the Bridges consortium, Des Moines Public Library, and the Digital Johnson County consortium. Public schools we serve include Sioux City Community Schools and Bedford Community School District.

We share the Legislature's commitment to protecting children. At the same time, we are concerned that Senate File 2177 is based on a misunderstanding of how digital library services operate.

OverDrive distributes lawfully published materials licensed directly from publishers. Our platform does not provide access to child pornography, obscene content, or illegal material. The titles available through our service are the same commercially published works that libraries make available on their physical shelves.

SF 2177 would require libraries to implement filtering or blocking technology across digital services and to monitor third-party vendors for compliance, with potential penalties for library staff. These requirements would create significant operational burdens without addressing a demonstrated gap in existing law.

The bill's reference to "inappropriate" content—without clear definition—also raises concerns about how subjective standards could limit access to lawful educational and literary works. Public libraries serve readers of all ages and backgrounds, and digital access should be treated consistently with physical collections.

OverDrive remains committed to working collaboratively with policymakers and libraries to ensure digital services are safe, lawful, and responsive to community needs. We respectfully encourage the Committee to consider the operational and constitutional implications of SF 2177 before advancing the bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Potash", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Steve Potash
Founder & CEO - OverDrive, Inc.