

I strongly urge you to oppose SF 2177.

This bill imposes sweeping and unnecessary mandates on Iowa's public libraries. Libraries do not provide access to child pornography, hard-core pornography, or obscene material. Those materials are already illegal under existing state and federal law. SF 2177 attempts to solve a problem that does not exist while exposing local libraries and their staff to new layers of liability and penalties.

If the concern is "obscenity," we must apply that term carefully and consistently. Is a Bible passage describing rape or sexual violence obscene? Is a health book discussing puberty obscene? Context, intent, and literary or educational value matter. Literature that explores identity, relationships, or difficult realities is not the same as pornography. A public library cannot and should not replace the role of parenting. Parents have every right to guide their own child's reading, but the government should not impose one family's standards on every other family in a community.

This is not thoughtful child-protection policy. It is regulatory overreach that burdens local institutions with costly compliance requirements, shifts liability onto staff for circumstances beyond their reasonable control, and risks restricting lawful, constitutionally protected information. Libraries already operate under established collection policies and reconsideration procedures. Undermining those systems does not strengthen families — it weakens a vital community institution.

I respectfully ask that you vote NO on SF 2177.

Sincerely,  
Marc Wallace