

RE: Opposition to North Dakota HB1205

Mr. Lawrence Klemin
Chair House Judiciary Committee

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you today as a citizen and former librarian of North Dakota who opposes House Bill No. 1205. Not only is the language of this bill overly broad, but it will also interfere with people's right to information and turn librarians into agents of censorship.

I am also a survivor of childhood sexual abuse. That is not a fact I share lightly, and one that I have never shared publicly. My local and school libraries saved my life by having books that talked about the things I experienced. These same books would likely be removed from bookshelves under this bill. That is unacceptable to me.

It is in the public interest, and that of a democracy, to have a diversity of information and opinions available to its citizens. I appreciate that this bill likely came about as an attempt to "protect" people, but this isn't the way to do that.

Stephanie Baltzer, Mandan, District 34
Former North Dakota Library Association President
Lifelong ND Library Patron