

I, Matthew Mullins, as a North Dakota resident hereby state my opposition towards House Bill 1205 (HB 1205). My reasoning is as follows:

Regardless of what the general intention of this bill is the inclusion of sexual identity, gender identity, and sexual preferences in the clarification of the term 'explicit sexual material' immediately makes this bill an effort to restrict information that is directly relevant to a child's mental and social health.

Multiple studies ([https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(18\)30085-5/fulltext#intraref0010a](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(18)30085-5/fulltext#intraref0010a) & <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/137/3/e20153223/81409/Mental-Health-of-Transgender-Children-Who-Are?redirectedFrom=fulltext> to name two) have shown the positive benefits of transgender and gender non-conforming children being supported by the environments they frequent. Schools and libraries being just such environments for most children.

Denying children the opportunity or ability to encounter these topics is a direct blockade of their ability to understand said topics and thus themselves. Any action to accomplish this is an effort to immediately remove a positive factor in the environments of children across all of North Dakota. To willfully deny a child an available positive influence is not something any governing, legislative, or judicial body should stand for. There is absolutely no benefit to society to be gained from an action of this nature.

It does not matter if an action has good intent in the eyes of those performing it if a very predictable result of that action is negative. This action has very predictable consequences present in the histories of American families with family members denied any chance to understand themselves or express a sense of personal identity, of which gender and sexual orientation are a prevalent contributor in modern society. Those consequences are pain and the loss of life, which brings only more pain to those close to the departed.

In its current state this bill will accomplish far more harm than it ever could good. It is for this reason I stand against it.