

My name is Tammy Loran. I am coming to you as a private citizen of North Dakota. I oppose HB 1205. There is a saying that every good library has something to offend everyone. While this comment is usually said in slight jest, the idea is that libraries cater to a wide variety of patrons, with different informational and recreational wants and needs. What is concerned moral, which is truly what this bill represents, is very personal and varies from individual to individual. These are restrictions that should occur within private homes, not in public spaces. There is nothing wrong with not wanting your teenager to read a certain book; however, there is quite a bit wrong with demanding that all teenagers, even those who come from homes with a different set of morals, cannot have access to such a title. It is really no different than demanding everyone follow Christianity, or be heterosexual. Minors do not have it easy, especially when they reach their tween and teen years. Their bodies are going through a lot of changes, as well as their emotions. In an ideal world, all teens and tweens would be 100% comfortable with talking to their legal guardians about these changes and any questions that come with them; all legal guardians would be comfortable having those conversations, as well. This world is not ideal. Books are one of the best ways to address these questions and curiosities without readers feeling embarrassed for even wondering in the first place.