

Mr. Chairman, and Representatives of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Michelle Thompson from Dickinson. I am in favor of House Bill 1205. I want to thank Representative Lefor and Representative Steiner, and their team, on drafting a professionally written piece of legislation. I first off want to say that this matter is not a political matter. This is a matter of protecting our children's innocence plain and simple.

I am a homeschool mother and have great respect for our public library. My children have been taught that same respect. This is about adults who are using the library to attack and victimize our children. This is not a call to book ban or for censorship. None of us that are for this bill want either of those two things. The parents and citizens of my city that showed up to fight the gross attempt at sexualizing our children do not want that. Let this be clear. We simply want our children to be safe at our libraries once again. We want our children to be free to peruse the library shelves without the fear of their innocence being stolen by the mere glimpse of what these books have in them.

What concerns me about the content of this material being available to underage children, is the complete lack of respect for Federal as well as North Dakota State Law. In our state, the age of consent is 18. The law is premised on the assumption that minors are incapable of giving informed consent to a sexual act. So with that being the view of our state, and the Federal government, why would we need materials in our library that not only contradict that, but give step by step instructions on how to break the law?

Let us dive into one book that seems to be at the top of the list. Let's Talk About It. Self-proclaimed age range is fourteen and up. This book is rated a 4 out of 5, with 5 being rated as "abhorrent content" on Booklooks.org. An independent site run by parents that are frustrated by "the lack of resource material for content-based information regarding books accessible to children and young adults." They review each book regarding objectionable content, including nudity, profanity, and sexual content. They rate this book like I said above a 4, which is "not for minors." This book was the contentious book that citizens of various cities around the state fought to not have displayed and available to be checked out in their children's sections of their public libraries. This book depicts numerous illustrations that are sexually graphic and leave nothing to the imagination. Including, an ejaculating penis (page 77), a vagina with droplets in the midst of an orgasm with the words "Splurt!" and "Engorge!" (page 77) **On pages 147-153 it gives a step by step process on how to sext and edit the photo so you can be unrecognizable and have "no identifying features." Sexting is illegal for minors in our state(12.1.27.2).** So again, this book encourages illegal sexual behavior in minors. It also has illustrations and descriptions of various sexual positions. Not to mention the explanation of sexual terms. This book defines what a swinger is. What 14 year old needs to know what a swinger is? On page 132 two teens discuss "ditching the condoms" because she is on birth control, but that is only ok if they both get STI testing. I could go on and on about the gross, illegal, and pornographic content in this book. The point is Dickinson Library in particular has over 100 books that graphically depict sexual content and terms like this one quoted above already in their library alone. The other libraries in the state are experiencing the same problem. When we have a public, government funded entity like a library providing pornographic materials that encourage illegal activity in minors it opens up a whole can of litigation. Please vote Do Pass on this bill. We do not need to wait until a child gets injured and the libraries face lawsuits. These materials need to be removed from our Young Adult/Children's sections where they have been strategically placed and put where they can be available for those who are 18 years age and older only. Time to end the assault on North Dakota's innocent children. Thank you for your time and consideration.