

Testimony for HB 1205

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For the majority of my almost 27 years, I have stayed away from politics and controversial issues. Over the last few years, I have observed an increasing amount of what are considered controversial issues. So many of us try to do our best to “be good people” and “be accepting and tolerant.” I too was a victim of that pressure from today’s society. I choose to no longer be a victim and instead to be an advocate. I am advocating to protect the innocence of the children and teens of North Dakota. I was born and raised here, and I had the luxury of growing up un-sexualized. I was allowed to be a kid and then I was allowed to be an awkward teen with a lot of questions about how everything works and how my body works. I never once thought to go to a library to try and find a book about it and I am an avid reader. My first thoughts were, I will ask my mom, or I will ask my health teacher. We have health teachers and sex ed classes for a reason. Everything you need to know as a teen you are taught in class. The idea that we need to expand adolescent minds into the realms of things such as butt plugs, casual sex, anal sex, rimming and many other things such as this, is unnecessary and harmful. These are not topics that teens or children should be learning about or have free access to. The advice that these books give, such as encouraging them to go online to explore their kinks because it’s a safe place, does the exact opposite of what everyone is taught about the internet. That its not a safe place, that we should be careful because you don’t know who’s on the other side of the screen so to speak. It is directing them right into the hands of predators. We already have a major issue with sex trafficking, and this just makes it that much easier to groom children. It also tells them to find their favorite kind of porn. Porn is not a healthy representation of what real life is or what real sexual relationships are. Children watching porn to learn what to do sets them up for an unrealistic idea of what reality is, and will be when they begin to experiment, and can cause real harm when they can’t achieve what they watch and believe to be real, and this will result in severe mental health issues such as anxiety and body image issues. Teens already have it hard enough trying to figure themselves out. Let’s not add to it by confusing them with unrealistic and pornographic books in our libraries that are targeted at a minority group. Please pass this bill and choose the innocence of the children and teens in North Dakota.

Thank you,

Miranda Grafing