

My name is Troy Reiten and I am a resident of Grand Forks, District 17. I am a father, an avid reader, and a library card holder. I also have two children who will be of voting age within the next 4 years.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislative bill that seeks to prohibit public libraries from maintaining explicit sexual material. As a passionate reader and supporter of public libraries, I strongly believe that this bill would be a grave error and would undermine the critical role that public libraries play in our communities.

First and foremost, this bill would directly attack the principles of intellectual freedom and the First Amendment. Public libraries have long been recognized as guardians of free speech and expression, and any attempt to limit access to certain materials based on their content would be a blatant violation of these fundamental rights.

Additionally, public libraries are valuable resources for individuals seeking information and education on a broad range of topics, including sexuality and sexual health. By prohibiting public libraries from maintaining explicit sexual material, this bill would limit access to vital resources and prevent people from making informed decisions about their own well-being.

Furthermore, public libraries already have robust systems in place for managing access to materials that may be considered sensitive or controversial, such as age restrictions and parental controls. Rather than imposing additional restrictions, we should invest in these systems and ensure that everyone has equal access to the resources and information they require.

I am deeply concerned that this bill would also have a damaging effect on public libraries, discouraging them from acquiring and maintaining a wide range of materials essential to our communities. This would be a significant loss for everyone, and we must do everything possible to ensure that our public libraries remain vibrant, dynamic, and inclusive spaces.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to oppose this bill in any upcoming votes or hearings. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your attention to this critical issue.