

As a parent of a teen in North Dakota and a lifelong supporter of libraries, I'm writing in firm opposition of HB 1205. The library censorship bill is simply too broad and would effectively remove books with sexual content from a library whether it's a book read by a youth or an adult. Adults should be able to choose their reading content, and parents should be able to oversee what their children consume.

In addition, the financial implications of the staffing required to review all of the books in a library and determine if they violate this law or not is substantial. For example, ND State Library would need 71 temporary staff to review its fiction collection (which is 1/3 of its physical collection) plus 35 temps to review its e-book collection. Local public libraries would need +224 employees to review their collections.

This bill would criminalize librarians for conducting the duties of their job in good faith. There are already policies and procedures in place for addressing concerns about books and content. Let's let libraries continue to manage third materials without micromanagement by the state.

Please oppose HB 1205 as a bill that is too broad and results in overreach from the government.