

I have been an avid user of public libraries since before I started first grade, and getting my own library card was the highpoint of the year I started second grade. No one forces anybody to read anything particular in a public library, but patrons are able to pursue their own interests. Being able to find information about a question or issue and read it privately can be very important. Censorship of reading materials is a slippery slope—what will be banned next?

Authors of this bill seem ignorant of what librarians do, such as “development of a book collection appropriate for the age and maturity levels of the individuals who may access the materials.” Legislation to tell them to do so is unnecessary. Librarians already also deal with complaints about books that are, or aren’t, in their collections, but no one library patron should be able to force the removal of a book.

This bill is critically vague about important terms such as “deviant sexual intercourse;” the word “deviant” is not defined, nor is “sexual perversion.” Is everything except the missionary position deviant or perverted?

Sexually explicit books can be devoid of pictures. It’s not clear how they are impacted by this bill. If mere words describing sex are also intended to be banned, then the Bible, Shakespeare, some classic works of literature, and many romance novels will also be banned.

I urge a NO vote on this bill.

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