

March 12, 2023

Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Andrea Placher and I live in District 2 in Williston, ND. I have raised two young adults, now 19 and 24 years old. The library was, and often still is, a place I turned to for tools and information to help me educate my children. Together, we sought out books and materials on puberty, sex, recreational drug use, mental health disorders, suicide, divorce, sexual abuse, bullying, abortion, LGBTQ+ and yes, we even read the ones with cartoon pictures. While my neighbor next door may think these materials are “pornographic” or “harmful to children”, it isn’t up to them to make that decision for my children. These materials helped me become a better parent by allowing my children to read, discover and ask questions about the world around them.

It is my opinion that HB1205 clearly violates my right as a parent to choose what my children have access to as well as violating my children’s right to be curious, educated and well-rounded citizens.

Respectfully,

Andrea Placher

Williston, North Dakota