

Hello, I am Isabella Anderson, I am a Junior at Des Lacs Burlington high school, and I am here to oppose House Bill 1205. I strongly believe that there is nothing good to come out of the passing of this bill. Not only that, but I believe that it would be greatly harmful to all North Dakota citizens, especially the young people of our state. If this bill is passed, it will be taking away the First Amendment rights of all North Dakota citizens by taking away their right to access public information. As Americans, the First Amendment is one of the most important rights because it is a true show of the freedom this country is supposed to represent. This bill is taking away this freedom that our ancestors have fought for for generations.

This bill will not only affect children, but adults who should be allowed to check out a book from their library regardless of the content in said book, and parents should be given the liberty to make the choice for themselves if it is appropriate, as well as whether it is appropriate for their children

If parents are truly concerned about the content their child is reading, they can look into it themselves. Instead, this bill will force librarians from across the state to go through tens of thousands of books, costing them millions of dollars to do a job that should be the responsibility of a parent. Any parent supporting this bill is simply trying to disregard their parental responsibilities and give them to complete strangers.

Whatever you believe will be improved from this bill is wrong, whether that be stopping teens from having sex or slowing the rise of suicide rates.

When Representative Lefor introduced this bill they stated a statistic about how sexual books can be associated with the engagement of unprotected sex. However, without access to many of the books you are trying to ban from libraries, how do you expect teens to learn how to have protected sex. Many of these "sexual" books are purely informational, and without them what do teens do to learn about sex? They turn to the internet, turn to actual porn. Because, believe me when I tell you as a high school student, banning these books most certainly will not stop teens

from having sex, if that is truly your goal with this bill. It does not matter how they were raised or what values they may hold, it is simply human nature.

Representative Lefor also seemed very concerned about the rise of suicide rates in this country. And this is yet another thing that will not be helped by the passing of this bill. If anything, it will make it worse. Banning many of these books will take away the representation that teens so desperately need to feel accepted and a part of this society. Without this representation kids will feel like outcasts, like they don't belong, and like they are not worthy of representation. That is what makes kids kill themselves, not books.

When it comes down to it, this bill is not going to stop kids from having sex, it is not going to stop kids from killing themselves, and despite what we all know you are trying to do with this bill, it is not going to stop kids from being gay, and nothing you ever try to do will.