

HB #1205

Representatives: Lefor and Steiner

I oppose HB #1205.

As an adult living in the State of North Dakota, what I find offensive, is that fact that a small group of people think that they know what is best for us adults and that we adults can not monitor what our children watch, read or come in contact with out in public so additional laws, regulations and oversight must be made to do what we as parents, businesses and organizations cannot do.

As a parent, I used books to help my kids with homework as well as help me explain all sorts of things in life. Now let's be honest, what I may not find offensive, you legislators may find offensive. It is NOT your place to tell me that my idea is wrong or offensive. That is an overreach of government and is not only imposing your beliefs but interfering with families and their way of educating their children.

We see commercials on TV and hear radio commercials talking about Viagra and about male erectile dysfunction. The commercials talk about how Viagra and other medications can help a male feel more like a young man in his prime and get his mojo back. Personally, I find that offensive. These commercials offend the ears and eyes of many on a daily basis yet I dare say those that drafted this bill didn't put one thought towards these commercials and why is that? It's simple, the target for this bill isn't to protect the youth of ND. That's just a cover and a way to gloss over the real intended target which is the LGBTQAI community.

I personally was educated on puberty by a book. My mother couldn't bring herself to tell me so my oldest sister grabbed a book and said here, read this. That was my education, a book. Your bill would make that book impossible for me to know in advance what changes my body had in store for me. So, how do you propose that a family who is too intimidated or uncomfortable to talk to their children about puberty or life issues educate their families? It is too easy for you to say parents must talk to their kids. That's not realistic and in my experience even in my own family, that doesn't happen. Your theory is flawed. Your hurting kids who have no guidance at home. Your hurting the parents who need a book or other media to help them talk about life to their kids.

The harm comes from keeping our youth ignorant to the facts of life because eventually those youth grow up and either learn by others or go into the world and then discover that they knew very little about the world outside of the North Dakota's borders. Our kids will not be as prepared to go into the world and live amongst others who do not fall into the same category as those, they lived next to or grew up with.

Since when did knowledge become the enemy? Book banning in our libraries and schools smack of Nazi like mentality. We live in a country where freedom is celebrated. Choice used to be a corner stone of our country but lately our state is looking more like a dictatorship rule and lacks any freedom in which the US was founded on.

I am offended by the very fact a small group of people think they know what is best for me and my family yet they don't know me. What this group IS DOING is imposing their own religious beliefs onto others. Separation of church and state is warranted here.

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Kids have and will always continue to seek that which is forbidden. The things that are taboo are the very things which entices our youth to seek that which you denounce. You're not protecting anyone. If you really wanted to protect our youth you would be fighting for our schools to be educating our youth about their bodies, about LGBTQAI community and about the facts that our country has marginalized people from its start and that includes North Dakota and it's interment camps, the taking of Native American children away from their families and communities and forcing religion onto them as well as mandating that they adopt a lifestyle that they deemed as barbaric and needed to be eliminated. When will this legislative body learn from history that to eliminate choice doesn't protect but in fact harms people.

Your prejudice and religious beliefs are the driving force behind this bill. Freedom to read, to educate, to explore is not your place to govern over. Not everyone holds your beliefs and your not the moral compass for me nor the State of North Dakota.

Stop being prudes. The legislators and supporters of this bill cannot say they have never told a dirty joke, watched a movie that had some form of nudity in it, had cursing in it or had some form of expression that is mentioned in this bill. This is a censorship bill, plain and simple.

Either we as parents are capable of taking care of our children and that includes monitoring what our children watch, read and are exposed to or we are capable to raise our children correctly, as we see fit. The GOP has proposed a bill, HB #1362, which enforces parental rights yet this bill dictates what we as citizens of North Dakota can be exposed to. Come on! Which is it?

Stop legislating our lives to death! No one is making anyone grab any material that they find offensive. Removing choice is wrong. There are best practices in place and if there is an issue, deal with that issue on a case by case basis.

You are not the moral police nor do you speak for every citizen of North Dakota.

Respectfully,
Kristie Miller