

RE: HB 1205

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express strong opposition to HB 1205 and urge you to please recommend a DO NOT PASS.

I have spent the last 19 years raising my family in North Dakota. Nearly every week, my family visits the public library. We have enjoyed the many resources it offers, including books, media materials, artwork, periodicals, and the expertise of the staff. Our public library one of the key reasons we choose to remain in this community.

At no point in time have I felt concerned about my four children being exposed to any of the materials in a public library. Nor do I believe that is a legislative responsibility to determine which materials exist in public libraries, or to override parental responsibility.

Furthermore, the language of HB 1205 is so broad and diffuse that it will ultimately result in highly subjective and potentially destructive choices. Who will decide whether a work of art has "serious artistic significance" or "anthropological significance"? This should be a determination made by individuals who are able to openly view materials. Why should one community member have the power to restrict the ability of other library patrons to access materials and information? HB 1205 includes a clause indicating that public libraries must consider individual requests to remove materials. Do librarians really need to be spending their time fielding such requests? Should my neighbor be the one to decide what I can read, or the works of art I can view with my children?

HB 1205 amounts to a violation of First Amendment rights by enacting censorship.

I urge you, DO NOT PASS HB 1205.

Thank you for your consideration.

Daphne Pedersen, Grand Forks, ND