I am Pam Carswell, veteran spouse, mother of three. I have been a librarian for teens for over ten years.

This bill takes away great books from teens who need information and context about sex. Whether the teens wish to read a book in the fiction or nonfiction section, there are books that include this human subject in every well stocked library. Pass this bill and teens lose this access they desperately need to accurate information. That's quite unwise and a recipe for higher STD rates, unintentional pregnancies and a lot of poor decisions.

Adults who enjoy a romance novel lose out with this bill. Those who enjoy a Tom Clancy novel will lose out. Those who want to read the Bible will lose out. These books will disappear from our libraries as there is sexual content and not so pretty content in many cases in these books. The rape of Tamar in 2 Samuel is particularly abhorrent. I hope the bill's sponsors are willing to speak with every disappointed adult reader when they can't get the books they want to read! I don't fancy it personally. We have a lot of senior ladies who will be quite riled without their steamy paperbacks!

The irony of all of this is that if the Republican sponsors of this bill had followed their avowed commitments of smaller government and local control, they would have filled out a form for reconsideration for a material they questioned. All public libraries have this available. This form would have opened the door for a civil conversation about the placement of perhaps too mature materials or inaccurate information in the materials and this all could have been taken care of quickly and easily.

Now, they have attempted to make overreaching decisions for all readers in North Dakota which are NOT appropriate or appreciated. Rewriting how libraries operate over a few books you personally object to is not the way to run the government.

CENSORSHIP REFLECTS A SOCIETY'S LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN ITSELF. IT IS A HALLMARK OF AN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME.

#ReadingIsNotACrime

LIBERTAS BELLA

Potter Stewart