

Chairman Klemm and members of the house judiciary. My name is Connor Traynor and I am in opposition to bill 2360.

I am a young man who has lived in North Dakota his whole life. I work at our local comic book store and have read many comic books that include "sexual content". I feel like these books have had little to no effect on my mental health and development. I also feel that the bill is not distinct enough in what is being considered "Sexual Content" and what books would be banned because of it. I know where I work we would never sell a sexually explicit book to a child.

I understand I don't speak for our store but that is a policy that we have in place. Many of the most impactful graphic novels and books would get banned under this bill. Many of these comics and graphic novels have little "sexual content" within them and it would be a shame if kids could not read these impactful pieces of literature. I understand that sex is a sensitive topic to many, but it is a natural thing that occurs in everyday life and is important for people to be exposed to. If this bill were to pass, the store I work at would possibly have to be made an 18 plus establishment if we still wanted to sell a majority of our comics.

If it is not more defined in its restrictions than true pieces of great literature would not be able to be read by minors. Examples of this include the book Watchmen, which talks about sex in a more or less positive way.

If this bill were to pass this would leave me without a job and would hurt the store that means so much to countless members of our community. If this bill were to pass it would deter more kids from reading in a world where reading has become a dying hobby. If the bill does pass this wouldn't completely prevent kids from reading these types of literary art as they have easy access to the internet, as it contains these books and much worse things for them to be exposed to. This would also lead to local brick and mortar stores losing many customers and encouraging them to spend more money on sites on the internet.

So, in conclusion, if this bill were to be passed there would be almost no benefit to the bans and lead to many children losing out on reading some of the greatest pieces of literature.