

My name is Montana Ackman, I have been a proud citizen of North Dakota for all of my adult life, and I am writing to you today to urge you to **VOTE 'NO' on Senate Bill No. 2123**. This bill, if enacted, would be incredibly harmful to the God-given and US Constitutionally protected rights of the citizens of North Dakota to raise and parent their children and opens the Senate up to a variety of negative legal actions for its violation of the 1st Amendment as it relates to intellectual freedom and Freedom to View.

In a free society, it is the right and responsibility of its **citizens** not its **governing body** to use their good judgement in deciding what they deem to be acceptable content to consume.

As this Bill relates specifically to minors and the places that they frequent, I would remind this Assembly that it is the job of a parent/legal guardian to filter content for their wards until the minors are of an age where they can be taught to monitor and filter the content that they choose to consume for themselves.

Additionally, with the exception of establishments that cater specifically to adults over the age of 21, there is no feasible place wherein minors would not be found. The way this bill has been written any doctor's office, dentist, motor vehicle repair shop, or other business institution that would have or display items such as *1984* by George Orwell, *People Magazine*, the Bible, books on puberty, books on marriage, or even something as mundane as the *New York Times* could be found to be in violation of this bill and subject to a class B misdemeanor.

Can you see how this approach is wrong and places responsibility for a minor's safety into the wrong hands?

Until a minor is of the majority and can make decisions for themselves, it should not be legislators and strangers who are charged with the protection of a child's innocence and (though I am loath to put it this way) maintaining their purity of thought. It should be the job of the parents and guardians who are entrusted with that minor's care to protect their innocence and educate them of the morals and values that lead to good judgement

I was raised by parents who adhere to a strict moral code, my parents took the time to educate me on the morals and values that they wanted me to internalize within myself and apply to my life. To this day, I use the good judgement that they taught me to have whenever I am evaluating media and information.

As for the legal action that this assembly is opening itself up to, I have attached the Merriam Webster Dictionary definition of **intellectual freedom** as well as **an applied interpretation of the 1st Amendment** titled the Freedom to View Statement.

In light of this information, I would again urge you to **VOTE 'NO'** on Senate Bill No. 2123 as this bill goes against the freedoms protected in the 1st Amendment and places the responsibility for the protection of minors in the hands of strangers and legislators rather than in the hands that can properly protect them – those of parents and guardians.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this!

Respectfully,

Montana Ackman