

Again we are faced with a library censorship bill as we were in 2023! I suspect because of the former legislative action, every library in ND now has both selection and removal policies in place plus the statement that “It is the parent’s right and responsibility to choose what their children read, considering their individual values and family dynamics.” Apparently because the philosophy that seems to pervade a number of GOP legislators “My way or no way”, once again we have attacks on public and school libraries. Libraries respond to the individual needs, desires, wants of the communities they serve. I’m sure that there is probably no desire in eastern ND to have material on cow castration and in western ND on sugar beets. That in elementary schools there is a huge need for easy readers while at the high school level if there, these would be for courses that exist on child care. High schools might have much material on career choices while the material at the elementary shows what these careers do. Apparently the attitude of the legislators, especially those who proposed this censorship bill, is that librarians across the state are there to corrupt their patrons. I challenge you and every legislator to go have

a coffee with those you are attacking. The majority are women, that truly have at heart their community and the needs/desires/wants of those they serve. My personal belief is that the list of objectionable books provided by Moms for Liberty is driving this action. That the majority of the legislators do NOT even use their libraries. That they are driven by an ideology that speaks to their personal beliefs and DOES NOT reflect the users &/or the citizens of the communities that they are attacking. That it is too much work to go and ask for removal of the items/ programs/locations at the library of their community so want a blanket action to affect the total state. Look back two years. Every library in the state responded. What was the cost? What was the action that occurred? What did the individual communities through the later truly convey to you? Continually we are hearing,(from the GOP) state over country, local over state and personal choices over universal. Yet this action is completely the opposite. It appears that instead of doing the work of approaching each library (local) if one has a concern, connecting with the community served by these libraries, connecting with their patrons, those pushing this legislation have

no desire to do that work. or - One wonders IF they did do such. That their community response was not what they desired. So this action is actually a retaliation. PLEASE VOTE NO on any and all censorship bills.