

To whom it may concern,

I was shocked to learn that North Dakota is considering censoring and banning literature in public libraries. I recently moved with my family from Illinois to North Dakota. I was elected as a Trustee for my local library in Illinois, and recently wrote a section for the library bylaws committing to not ban books. That doesn't mean that the shelves were full of inappropriate books. Librarians keep books for which there is a demand, and do not invest in media that won't be used. Librarians use discretion based on the needs and interests of their local populations. No children were accidentally picking up inappropriate books and reading them.

It's essential for a population to have access to literature and media, without censorship. Libraries and patrons use discretion when choosing their books and media, and they don't need government meddling. Preserve the First Amendment. Allow the Freedom of Speech, and allow libraries to continue stocking their shelves based on the needs and interests of their population. Please don't waste your time censoring and book banning. Those who ban books only create more interest in those books, and create more problems than they solve. Please spend the time, effort, and money on helping North Dakotans with their actual needs, not perceived outrages.

Thank you