

Greetings,

I am a homemaker and home-educator from Fargo, North Dakota. I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to HB 1205.

The banning of books is an extreme act of censorship that inhibits the rights of citizens to access information representing a wide variety of views including those considered unorthodox.

This bill demonstrates a lack of trust in North Dakotans. It points toward a lack of awareness to the codes of ethics that librarians abide by.

Additionally, bans like this one often disproportionately impact already marginalized LGBTQ communities by restricting access to LGBTQ representation in media.

Furthermore, I find it troubling that this bill prohibits the depiction of “postpubertal human genitals” whilst not prohibiting the depiction of prepubescent human genitals. If the depiction of nudity always represents sexual exploitation as this bill suggests, then children ought to be at the top of the list of individuals protected from such exploitation.

Sincerely,
Ashley L. Aus