

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

We need to pass HR 1205 to protect youth from pornographic and obscene materials in public libraries which can expose them to sexual images and ideas at an age when they are not mature enough to view, understand, or make decisions on these matters. HR 1205 would ban these materials from public library shelves rather than exempt libraries from a ban as the ND Century Code now does.

Let's Talk About It by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan was such a book found in Valley City's public library. It has created a lot of controversy and a group has been organized locally and is spreading statewide to oppose books like this from being made available to children in our public libraries. This book is only one of many similar books that are making their way into public libraries. Some of this has to do with public libraries taking their book guidelines from the National Library Association. But we in North Dakota should determine our own standards. Parents have the right to expect that they can send their child to the public library on their own and not be exposed to porn.

Teachings about sexuality need to be coupled with moral values. Obscene books like this promote the idea that "if it feels good, do it" and that there is no right or wrong in sexual matters. This kind of thinking is at the root of a host of societal problems including sexually transmitted diseases, emotional and physical abuse and trauma, divorce, single parenthood, teen pregnancies, and abortion.

Please give HR1205 a DO PASS in committee.