

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Miki Thompson. I am a resident of Dickinson. I am a homeschooling parent of two children. I am in favor of this bill. I am a part of a group of concerned parents that have been watching this bill closely.

We as taxpayers and citizens are exhausted. We have been working tirelessly to be heard by our library board and leadership. We have filled out their forms for reconsideration with no response. We have attended their meetings. We have been ridiculed on social media, and via testimony to the state by standing library board members. We went to our city leaders and they passed the buck back to the library. So, we turned to our representatives at the State House who drafted bills, because we were not being heard by those who are supposed to be serving our community locally.

I want to be clear. This is not political. This is about protecting the innocence of our children. Adults in opposition have unfortunately made it about themselves and their own rights. That is not what this is about. No adult rights are being violated here. Adults have no right giving children access to pornography. In fact, it is illegal. I have looked at and read some of the materials in question. They are disturbing to say the least. One book represents porn as a sugary treat. Porn has been proven to be highly addictive and destructive. Fifteen states have declared a porn epidemic, including South Dakota, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Montana. Why are employees of publicly funded government entities pushing this sexualization on children? Who would want to push sexuality on children at younger ages? Our state is very clear on the age of consent at being 18. These materials also encourage children to break state and federal laws. They encourage unprotected sex. I have heard the excuse from library staff that these materials need to be in the library for those kids without involved parents that can help them process the information. So we now are victimizing children that have no parental direction in their life?

During one library board meeting, I was in the overflow room at city hall. There were about 80-100 concerned citizens there that night. In the overflow section we were watching the meeting via the video monitors. Several people had brought images from some of the materials in question. During their time to speak(which was limited unfairly) they showed the images. The video in the overflow could not show us the images. We would be cut off if reading passages from the material. If it cannot be shown at a public meeting why are the libraries allowing this to be in a children's section at a library? You cannot even go to the library computers and look up the terms explained in the books. As a parent I can no longer trust that my local library is safe for any child.

When you walk into our library social justice displays have taken over. Gone are the displays that encourage children to read and learn about the world around them. I remember walking into my local library as a child and seeing displays about the jungle, different genres, author spotlights, and so much more. The displays would have books, new and old. Unfortunately personal, social agendas have infected our libraries. They are not run locally. They are not even run by the state association. We have let a federally funded leftist extremist group gain control of all our libraries. The ALA makes all the rules and codes of ethics for our libraries. These codes and rules do not reflect our North Dakotan community standards. Enough is enough. Time to protect our most precious assets. Time to take our libraries back.

Thank you for your time.

