

Re: House Bill 1205

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1205.

Libraries are already mandated and do have strong protections against internet pornography. The computer control mechanisms for this are quite effective. (In our own home use, the parental controls on our family computer were so effective that I could not order a bra online without my husband temporarily disabling the parental controls.) The books and examples that this bill names, do not fit the definition of pornography. Nudity is not pornography; information about one’s body or information about sex is not pornography. If a youth is looking for information about sex, it would be far more desirable for them to be able to check out a library book that has been vetted using the library’s official policies and standards, than going to the internet at a friend’s house. And what kind of government overreach says that adults are no longer allowed to have access to the books that are described in the bill?

There are many dangers and hardships for children in ND today (hunger, lack of adequate childcare, prevalence of alcohol and fire arms), but going to a public library is not dangerous or harmful.

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