

Good morning

Im a mother of 2 kids in Killdeer ND. Before this last year I was honestly clueless about the fact that the public libraries could display content that you would need to provide an ID to see in other places. The fact that these materials in question most recently are in cartoon form is even worse. Cartoons are typically geared towards small children. The library should be a safe place for children. It breaks my heart to see whats happening. I spent hours upon hours in the library growing up. My mother is a librarian.

Books like these are entirely inappropriate for so many reasons. But most of all for the fact that they could be used as a grooming tool for child predators. I have personally seen the aftermath of child molestation both as a martial arts instructor helping children/families heal and as a family member of someone very near and dear to me that it happened to by a trusted family friend. A book like this would have been gold to these monsters.

If porn was displayed openly at a movie theater or you could enter that movie without showing ID when buying the ticket, we would be suing the theater. We would be especially upset if the movie was advertised as a cartoon and rated PG. I dont understand why libraries (which are publicly funded) are held to a separate standard.

Last, I have shown my friends who are members of the LGTBQ community this book to get a perspective of someone who these books are supposedly made for. One friend (who is also a mother) was shocked and abhorred that her community was being used as a way to peddle these books and another said his childhood predator wouldve loved it. Yikes.

The public library is a sacred space. It is dear to my heart. It was a safe place in my childhood. But it is not the public libraries responsibility to educate our children. It is not their responsibility to indoctrinate our children. It is their responsibility to:

- order books, journals and other resources
- catalog and keeping track of library materials
- advise academics on materials for their courses
- make sure all users can access library resources
- respond to requests from students, staff and other library users
- manage library staff
- manage budgets and projects
- promote the librarys resources.

In that list I see no responsibilities that include raising awareness for political or social agendas and theories. If I as a parent or any adult old enough to view pornographic imagery wish to seek out information that is in these books in question I could certainly do that. But it is not the responsibility of the library to provide that material for general public access.

My issue is with the imagery and graphic detail that the books give about sex acts. This is entirely inappropriate and unacceptable for kids to have easy access to in a public space. And there are many other more appropriate books with information about gender identity that could fill its place that dont contain that sort of imagery or graphic detail.

I support HB2123.

Thank you

Samantha Kershisnik