

Mr. Or Madam Chairman and members of the board, today I am writing in opposition of SB 2123. My name is Casey Kruger. I am 18 years old and a senior at Valley City Junior/Senior high school. I am a member of the generation this legislation will affect the most. I am incredibly saddened that this bill was proposed. It is a blatant attempt to ban books, works of art, and other visual or textual references to anything remotely sexual. I can not describe the amount of books that would be subject to violation because of one sentence or one passage. To name just a few: 1984 would undoubtedly be brought into question due to the sex scenes depicted therein, The Handmaid's tale has scenes of rape and would be immediately thrown out, ancient poems like the Odyssey and Illiad would be brought into question, and of course the Bible has multiple sections depicting nude or partially denuded figures. These are just some of the literature I could think of off the top of my head which isn't even mentioning all the famous art that would be ripped from the hands of museums and art galleries. Venus de milo, almost the entire works of Michelangelo, Sandro Botticelli's depictions of Dante's inferno, The Birth of Venus, Judgement of Paris, and the Vitruvian Man one of the most famous renaissance depictions of anatomy. Removing all protections and expanding the grounds one which this law can apply can only damage our society, not help it. This law is meant to protect children, but since when is that the government's job. I am 18 years old and was, to my memory, never exposed to anything remotely sexual until is was 12. I am, and always have been, an avid reader and user of the both the public library and the college library, since my father works at the college. I was brought to art galleries and museums by my parents and under their supervision, I do not remember seeing anything remotely sexual. I applaud and support my parents for making choices that helped form me into the individual I am today. I firmly stand against this attempt to limit my privileges, freedoms, and rights to access any information I need from our vaunted institutions of knowledge. Thank you for your time and consideration.