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In 2022 the national polling agency, OnePoll, queried 2,000 parents with children ages 5-18 about having “the talk.”

Unfortunately, the results showed, not every parent is talking “the talk.” More than 20% of adults in the US say they are NOT planning to have a conversation about the birds and the bees with their kids.

Results of the survey also revealed 60% of American parents were raised thinking sex was “taboo,” which may affect how they approach the subject with their children.

On the positive, it found 58% of respondents have already spoken to their children about sex. On the negative, 21% are planning on doing so in the future.

Having just finished a statistics refresher course, I can do the math to confidently conclude this means more than 40 percent of parents are NOT talking about sexuality to their kids. So where are they children getting the information? And is what they are getting accurate?

This is what library books are for – to assist curious individuals in finding information to answer their questions. By limiting choice and access to information, we are raising generations of non-information literate

individuals who are unable to critically assess information because they are not able to read materials which may make some people uncomfortable.

While this has been made out to be conservative versus liberal, one political party against another, the facts don't prove that out. According to a 2017 article from the major science journal, PLoS One, "More than 89 percent of parents that identified as Republicans or Democrats support including a wide range of topics in sex education including puberty, healthy relationships, abstinence, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and birth control in high school. In middle school, 78 percent or more of both parents that identified as Republicans and Democrats support the inclusion of those topics. Controlling for key demographic factors, parents that identified as Democrats are more likely than those that identified as Republicans to support the inclusion of the topics of healthy relationships, birth control, STDs, and sexual orientation in both middle and high school. However, a strong majority of Republican parents want all these topics included in sex education. Sex education which includes a broad set of topics represents an area of strong agreement between parents of both political parties." (Kantor, 2017)

The other damage to literacy is this bill also results in adult readers have materials censored at the library. As a person who reads 50-75 books per year across all genres and topics, I am livid HB1205 will significantly limit my intellectual freedom and the ability to choose my own reading material. Additionally, think about this: A young person at aged 17 years 364 days would not be able to publicly access materials in the restricted categories listed in this bill. The next day The. Very. Next. Day. at age 18, the young person now is qualified to vote and go to war. There's something very wrong with that situation.

Lastly, student projects in the New York University Media and Cultural Analysis class, reported, "Books were banned or burned categorically by the government if the authors had Jewish lineage, communistic or pacifist sympathies. These books were completely unavailable to the public under the control of the Nazis." (<https://counterarchive.hosting.nyu.edu/exhibits/show/book-banning-by-governments/censorship--banning--and-book->)

Paraphrasing to match this legislation you can easily fill in these categories with:

Books were banned categorically by the government if the authors had sexuality or homosexuality information, gender identity explanations or

sympathies toward those groups. These books were completely unavailable to the public under the control of the North Dakota Legislature.

History repeating itself. Again. History. Repeating. Itself.

I adamantly ask to you to stamp HB1205 DO NOT PASS.

<https://www.onepoll.us/six-in-10-american-parents-were-raised-thinking-sex-was-taboo/>

Kantor L, Levitz N. Parents' views on sex education in schools: How much do Democrats and Republicans agree? PLoS One. 2017 Jul 3;12(7):e0180250. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0180250. PMID: 28672027; PMCID: PMC5495344.