

HB1205

Vote NO on HB1205.

Libraries have policies in place for reconsideration of items on the shelf. Any patron can ask for an item to be reconsidered by going through the proper channels. It is the parent's responsibility to know that their children are reading and looking at. No staff member at a library will check out a book to a minor that is not approved by their parent. This bill is BAD policy and needs to be struck down and done away with. It is total censorship of ALL material in libraries.

Libraries have collection management policies that are age appropriate. This policy is used when new books are ordered and when books are shelved. Some minors have no one to teach them the birds and bees so they used to turn to books. Many parents do not want to discuss the topic of sex with their children. That is the parents' responsibility but some think if we don't bring it up it will just not happen. This is the wrong mindset. Minors will find a way to get the information they want.

Minors see more on Prime Time TV than they ever see in a book at the library. Are you going to go after the TV stations and fashion designers for what people on TV are not covering up? That is offering sex to minors every time they watch TV. What about their phones? Are you going to monitor the minor's phones and be sure that they are not accessing sex items on their phones?

There is no fiscal note attached to this bill. The financial responsibility is being thrown on the cities and counties! Who is going to pay for the extra employees that are going to be needed by EVERY library in order to be in compliance with this law in 9 months? It will take an estimated 288 extra employees to read all the books in every collection of every library to be sure that the library is in compliance with this bill. Who is going to pay for those 288 employees?

A report is required to be sent to the legislative management every year. Who is going to review these reports and what are they supposed to contain? Are you going to write job duties for every person in the state of North Dakota or just Library directors?

Respectfully submitted,

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