

I write to OPPOSE HB1205 and ask you to vote NO!

I am a frequent user of the public library system. I travel a lot and use audio books through Libby to listen to while driving. I enjoy a wide variety of genres . . . mystery, romance, classical, self-help. Honestly, I would fall asleep on the road if I didn't have these audio books available to me.

As a pastor, I have seen how the Libby audio books are used by my parishioners in nursing home and assisted care facilities. Those with diminished eyesight particularly find a useful and enjoyable way to pass the long hours listening to books of their interests.

I believe that public libraries should have a wide variety of genres and topics to meet the needs of the public. I trust librarians to use their wisdom and education to choose what is best to put on the shelves. I do not believe that legislators have the knowledge or understanding to do this job.

I believe that what is offered in a public library should NOT be dictated by a particular conservative moral stance. As a person of faith, I hope that there are books available to the teenager who is struggling with his or her sexuality. I want books that share perspectives on the events of history from the oppressed or minority point of view. We need access to materials on how to better care for creation and natural resources. Children need books that express the colors and traditions and languages of the diverse, beautiful people of this world to learn to live peaceably with one another. People of any religious tradition should have access to writings from their and other traditions.

I urge legislators to move from an attitude and spirit of "exclusion" to one of inclusion and openness which truly reflects the diversity and spirit of the people of North Dakota!

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