

If Celestia doesn't guarantee the availability of historical data, then there is no way for a syncing node to tell if historical blocks are valid.

The majority could be corrupted, finalize a block with data withheld, and move on. Sampling only protects the nodes who are synced and are following the head. However, if they reject a block finalized by the majority and consensus never finalizes a available block for that height, they're basically fucked.