

Matthew Skaggs

Newark, Ohio

### Testimony of Matthew Skaggs

#### As an Interested Party and Proponent to H.B. 245

#### To Amend Sections 2907.39 and 4301.25 of the Ohio Revised Code to Prohibit Adult Cabaret Performances in Locations Other Than Adult Cabarets

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for hearing my interested party and proponent testimony for H.B. 245.

My name is Matthew Skaggs and I currently live in Newark, Ohio. I am the duly elected Licking County Republican Committeeman for precinct Newark 5-D. The purpose of my testimony is to notify the sponsors of H.B. 245 of potential ambiguity of certain language contained in H.B. 245, have said language amended, and ultimately see H.B. 245 passed into law.

Let me begin by saying that I enthusiastically support the concept of H.B. 245 and of H.B. 245 itself to prohibit adult cabaret performances in locations other than adult cabarets. I believe that children have no place in and around persons or areas that are designated for Pride, “drag shows”, “drag queen story time” or any other vulgar and indecent performances or gatherings. However, upon reading the bill, I noticed one term that is potentially problematic and should be changed.

This is the amendment to section 2907.39 under the highlighted portion under (4) on page 3, line 67. It reads “**performer's or entertainer's gender assigned at birth**”. “Gender assigned at birth” is a radical gender ideology construct where it is implied that the parents of a newborn, the doctor(s) assisting and facilitating the birth of a newborn baby, and other maternity healthcare professionals “assign” a gender immediately after the birth of a newborn baby. This fringe gender ideology believes that the “gender assigned at birth” is based only or primarily on the genitalia of the baby and that the “gender assigned at birth” could later be wrong. Also, under this radical ideology a child or adult can change his or her “gender assigned at birth” at any time in a fluid or everchanging way based on his or her feelings or emotions. There is evidence that also included in this fringe gender ideology is that individuals can identify as an untold number of different genders or no gender at all. I believe that this term needs to be changed to “**performer's or entertainer's birth sex**”.

This change will eliminate any debate or confusion, knowingly or unknowingly, of the differences between gender and sex as it pertains to the law and how it will be applied to the adult cabaret performances once the bill is passed. Opponents to this bill would love nothing more than to find any element that can knowingly misinterpret so that they can take the issue to the courts to get the law bogged down in the judiciary.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge the committee to make this small amendment to section 2907.39 under the highlighted portion under (4) on page 3, line 67 and ultimately vote YES on H.B. 245.