

June 2, 2024

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent of HB 245, the Adult Cabaret Act.

- I am a concerned mother from Streetsboro (Portage County OH) My name is Roberta Sommer. I have been involved as an active citizen advocate on many matters, but this one is the most appalling to me. My main question is NOT ‘why do parents want to take their children to these drag shows or library story hours, but **WHY do these transvestite men have the NEED to perform in front of young children ??**

Ohio needs to enact this bill as soon as possible to protect our innocent children so they won’t grow up thinking these ‘performers’ are the new norm that must be accepted. Performing on a stage is bad enough, but when they come down into the audience, or pull little ones up onto the stage, seeing their private parts up close and even have them taking money is abhorrent. We fought this type of show when I lived in Solon (Cuyahoga county) and the “Arts Council” finally backed down.

- Ohio is better than this and our children should be protected from obscene performances in public spaces. When it comes to adult performances and adult imagery, those expressions need to be in adult establishments where minors are not present. Protecting children from exploitation and the robbing of their innocence is a matter of utmost importance.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Ohio and your time and consideration today of my testimony today in support of HB 245

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