



# Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

Date: 6/4/24

To: Chair Cindy Abrams  
Vice Chair Josh Williams  
Ranking Member Richard Brown  
House Criminal Justice Committee

From: David Mahan  
Policy Director  
Center for Christian Virtue

Re: Support for HB245

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and esteemed members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, My name is David Mahan and I am testifying on behalf of the Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization. I am here today to emphatically support the passage of (HB245), which will help prevent children from being exposed to lewd and obscene adult performances.

Despite all of the media spin designed to muddy the true intent of this legislation, the Bill Title could not be anymore clear, **"...to prohibit adult cabaret performances in locations other than adult cabarets"**. How is this controversial? There is nothing novel about this legislation. HB245 does not ban strip clubs, drag shows or anything of the sort. It simply prioritizes the fundamental needs of children over the superficial desires of adults, by applying the standards for "pandering obscenity" and "material harmful to minors" currently defined in code, to obscene **PUBLIC** performances. It is already illegal in Ohio to allow children into adult drag or strip clubs, so why would we think it's OK to allow the strippers to walk out of the club and publicly strip where children might be exposed- much less make it their expressed objective to perform in front of kids? And yet, here we are debating over the ability of adult entertainers to do just that. But why? Nobody is going to achieve "influencer" status from the social media posts of elementary school kids. 7 year old girls don't have any money to stuff into G-strings. So why the relatively

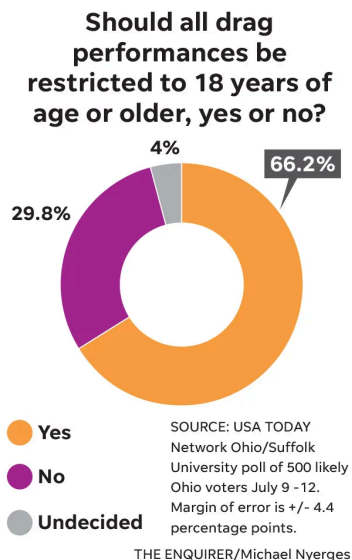


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recent rush to literally take their show on the road and publicly expose children to their kink and fetishes in schools, libraries, and community parks, like Rep. King so passionately described is occurring in her city? Regardless of how activists and adult entertainers choose to justify their new development strategy, Ohioans and the legislators that they have elected to represent their best interests should certainly have a say as well, especially as it relates to matters of public indecency and child well-being.

In closing, the federal government has spent millions of dollars on campaigns to encourage us to report suspicious activity—**“If you See Something, Say Something”**. Well, 66% of Ohioans and State Representatives from at least 43 districts, including several sitting on this very committee and are saying that half-dressed adults prancing around provocatively in front of little children in public should no longer be tolerated.



I would like to thank Representatives Ange King and Josh Williams for sponsoring this common sense legislation, and I would respectfully ask this committee to vote in favor of HB245 without delay. Thank you.

*The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God’s blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. [www.ccv.org](http://www.ccv.org) -- (513) 733-5775*