

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 greatly support this house bill. We must protect our children from highly sexualized environments and stop the pointed gender confusion being pushed on our children.

The other side claims that there is no evidence to show that drag shows negatively impact children. I beg to differ.

- 1.) It is only recently that children have been encouraged to attend drag shows so there is not a study following these children to see what kind of an impact it has had.
- 2.) A general look in our schools and at children today, there is real problem with how many children are identifying as the opposite sex than they were born with, no sex at all, animals, etc. Many children grow out of this, but activities like this encourage and celebrate questioning their gender and can put them through more hardships, seclusion, depression and questioning in their life than they may have ever had if they had not been exposed to such ideology and sexuality.
- 3.) There are studies and evidence on the effects of early sexualization on children. While specifically "drag" may not be studied, the effects of children being exposed to sexual material or acts at a young age is not questionable.
- 4.) Children, especially young children, are known to imitate. How often do children pretend to be, or want to grow up to be, Spider-Man, a mermaid, a princess, a Paw Patrol character, etc.? Being exposed to drag, especially colorful, energetic shows, could cause children to recreate what they have seen. In turn, they could be misdiagnosed as trans and encouraged to live a lifestyle outside of one they would have originally chosen for themselves had they been old enough to make such a decision on their own as an adult.

People who dress in drag have a right to do so in certain venues or their own home. It does not infringe on their freedom of expression to limit their exposure to children. I would be more concerned about why they are so adamant to do these acts, even reading gender questioning/LGBTQ+ books, in front of children. This past weekend in Ohio at a Pride festival, a drag Queen read, "Your children will see us. Your children will love us. And your children will join us."

I am a teacher and a mom. I have studied psychology and child development. I fear for what our children are now facing, being exposed to and being encouraged to participate in. I fear also for what is coming with the changes made to Title IX. A simple Google, X (Twitter) or YouTube search about Pride events, drag shows or drag show story times will show what really is going on and what children are being exposed to. I would be happy to share with you some inappropriate videos and photos that I have found of drag queens (or Pride events) with children. This sexualization of children or in front of children should be a crime, not allowed and encouraged. They are too young to consent to being exposed to such experiences.

Thank you for all you do for Ohio! I believe that you were put in your position for a time such as this to help protect our children and their innocence. We must fight for them and their futures.