



Since 2007: Protecting Faith, Family, Freedom,
and the Sanctity of Life

Written Testimony of John Stover
President, Ohio Value Voters
Before the House Judiciary Committee
House Bill 249 – The Indecent Exposure Modernization Act
October 29, 2025

Chair Thomas, Vice Chair Swearingen, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is John Stover, and I serve as President of Ohio Value Voters, an organization dedicated to promoting the values of Faith, Life, Family, and Religious Freedom. Since our founding in 2007, our mission has been to educate, inform, and influence voters and elected officials across Ohio. Ohio Value Voters is independent of any political party, religious denomination, or political action committee and operates as a registered 501(c)(4) organization.

Ohio Value Voters strongly supports House Bill 249, the *Indecent Exposure Modernization Act*, and respectfully urges this committee to advance the bill to the House Floor for a vote. This legislation is an important step toward protecting Ohio’s children, safeguarding parental rights, and upholding the integrity of public spaces for all families.

Research in child development consistently shows that early exposure to adult-oriented performances—such as cabaret or sexually suggestive entertainment—can have lasting emotional and psychological effects. During their formative years, children are developing an understanding of personal identity, relationships, and boundaries. When exposed prematurely to adult themes, they may experience confusion, embarrassment, or emotional distress. Such exposure can also lead to premature sexual awareness or desensitization to inappropriate behavior.

Experts agree that children are best protected when adult entertainment is confined to adult-only venues, where access is restricted and participation is voluntary. This framework allows parents—not performers or event organizers—to decide what is appropriate for their child’s age and maturity level.

Public spaces should remain safe, wholesome, and welcoming for all ages. Adult cabaret performances are not suitable for these settings. When children and families encounter sexualized behavior intended for mature audiences, it undermines parental rights, erodes community standards, and weakens the shared sense of decency that helps preserve the character of our neighborhoods. Protecting children from inappropriate exposure is not censorship—it is a reasonable, responsible measure to uphold community values and public trust.

For these reasons, Ohio Value Voters respectfully urges the House Judiciary Committee to pass House Bill 249 and reaffirm Ohio's commitment to the safety, innocence, and well-being of every child in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Stover

President, Ohio Value Voters