



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

Date: 10/28/25

To: Chair Jim Thomas
Vice Chair D.J. Swearingen
Ranking Member Eric Synenberg
House Judiciary Committee

From: David Mahan
Policy Executive Director
Center for Christian Virtue

Re: Support for HB249

Chair Thomas, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Synenberg, and esteemed members of the House Judiciary 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 (HB249), which will help prevent children from being exposed to obscene adult performances and indecent exposure.

Despite all of the media spin designed to muddy the true intent of this legislation, the bill language could not be any more clear about its two key provisions.

1. No person, with knowledge of its character or content, shall recklessly engage in an [obscene] adult cabaret performance in a location other than an adult cabaret. 2. The undefined term "Private Part" currently used in Section 2907.09 relating to indecent exposure, will be replaced with the term "Private Area", clearly defined in Section 2907.01.

How is this controversial? There is nothing novel about this legislation. HB249 does not ban strip clubs, drag shows or anything of the sort. It does not change our current standard for obscenity. 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? With over 9 MILLION adults living in Ohio, what responsible person would prefer to knowingly target children with lude performances, simulated sex acts, and exposed genitalia- either fake like the pride products sold in Representative King's community, or real as in the Xenia YMCA case where grown men are allowed to walk around naked in front of little girls in the locker room?

By now most of us are aware of the case where a Xenia court ruled that a very heavy, nude man was allowed to continue walking up to little girls fresh out of the locker room shower, and even attempt to engage them in conversation, simply because he had a large flap of skin covering his genitalia. However, what most don't know is that the same man had recently had a protective order filed against him for inappropriately grabbing the "butt and vagina" of Kateisha Young, a female employee of a different YMCA¹. So because of a loophole in the code, sexual predators get to sit in Ohio locker rooms and stare at the private parts of little girls, as long as their stomachs are large enough to cover their own. It's only in politically motivated rooms like this that you find entire groups of people attempting to justify some sick right of adults to publicly expose children to their kink and fetishes.

Regardless of how activists and adult entertainers choose to spin this mess, 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. 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^{2 3} and State Representatives from at least 35 districts, are saying Enough is Enough! Half-dressed adults prancing around provocatively in front of children in public, or fully naked men walking around little girl's locker rooms, must no longer be tolerated on our watch.

I would like to thank Representatives Angie King and Josh Williams for sponsoring this common sense legislation, and I would respectfully ask this committee to vote in favor of HB249 without delay. Thank you.

¹ [exclusive-women-speak-out-against-ymcas-transgender-bathroom-policies](#)

² https://www.bw.edu/news/2024/10/october_ohio_pulse_poll-final.pdf

³

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/politics/2023/07/24/poll-ohioans-dont-think-trans-athletes-should-play-in-school-sports/70426791007/>

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 -- (513) 733-5775



Q29: Do you support or oppose laws or policies that do each of the following? Allowing transgender individuals to use public bathrooms that match their gender identity

Response	Overall	Gender		Age		Degree?*	
		M	F	18-49	50+	Y	N
Strongly Support	11.4	8.5	14.4	14.4	8.3	16.1	9.2
Somewhat Support	15.0	14.3	15.7	16.8	13.1	15.5	14.7
Somewhat Oppose	12.0	12.6	11.5	12.1	12.0	13.7	11.2
Strongly Oppose	54.3	59.1	49.6	50.2	58.7	45.9	58.4
Not Sure	7.2	5.5	8.9	6.6	7.9	8.8	6.5

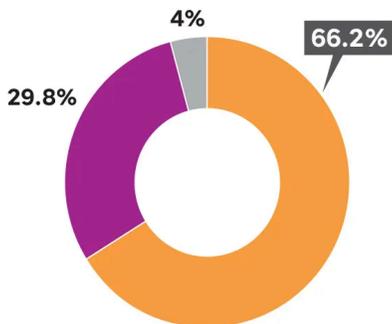
66%

*Refers to whether respondent has completed a four-year college degree.

Response	Overall	Party ID			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Wht	Blk	SE*
Strongly Support	11.4	22.7	4.1	9.1	11.0	15.6	10.4
Somewhat Support	15.0	24.8	8.6	13.9	14.5	12.0	22.0
Somewhat Oppose	12.0	9.9	11.1	18.1	11.7	11.7	15.0
Strongly Oppose	54.3	32.1	72.9	50.4	55.6	48.6	50.4
Not Sure	7.2	10.4	3.2	8.6	7.2	12.0	2.3

*SE: Something Else, i.e. any race/ethnicity category other than White or Black/African-American.

Should all drag performances be restricted to 18 years of age or older, yes or no?



- Yes
- No
- Undecided

SOURCE: USA TODAY Network Ohio/Suffolk University poll of 500 likely Ohio voters July 9 - 12. Margin of error is +/- 4.4 percentage points.

THE ENQUIRER/Michael Nyerges