

Foundation Stone Church

10/28/2025

To Whom it May Concern

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As pastor of Foundation Stone Church in Northwood, OH, I write to you concerning Ohio House Bill 249, the so-called “Indecent Exposure Modernization Act.” I wish to convey the deep concern of our congregation regarding the implications of this legislation — in particular, the danger it presents when public decency and the spiritual formation of our children are compromised under the guise of “freedom of speech” or “expression.”

1. The substance of HB 249

To be clear, HB 249 proposes to amend sections 2907.09, 2907.39 and 4301.25 of the Ohio Revised Code to broaden the definition of “indecent exposure” and to create the new offence of “unlawful adult cabaret performance,” especially in venues where minors may be present. The bill further defines an “adult cabaret performance” to include, among other things, “performers or entertainers who exhibit a gender identity that is different from the performer’s or entertainer’s biological sex” by means of clothing, makeup, prosthetics, imitation genitals or breasts, or other physical markers. Clearly, the legislation is intended to regulate certain forms of public performance and conduct — particularly those that might involve or be accessible to children.

2. A pastoral and biblical concern

From a Christian perspective, we recognise that all human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). We also believe Scripture calls the people of God to live lives of holiness and decency in word and deed: “Let all things be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:40 ESV) Moreover, we are called to protect the weak and vulnerable, especially children: “If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck...” (Matthew 18:6 ESV)

As a pastor, I am deeply concerned about the signals our society sends when conduct that undermines modesty, spiritual formation, and godly family values is treated as mere “self-

expression.” When public performances or venues expose children to sexualised messaging or exploit norms of decency under a supposed banner of freedom, it compromises the ability of parents and the Church to raise the next generation in fear of the Lord.

3. The misuse of “freedom of speech” as a pretext

Certainly, freedom of speech is a vital and righteous principle in our society. Yet when freedom becomes a mandate to indoctrinate children with ideas or practices that conflict with biblical truth, it loses its redeeming character. We observe that HB 249 is attempting to draw a line where public performance crosses into territory that is harmful to juveniles or obscene. From a pastoral vantage, we believe it is appropriate for civil authority to protect children and public spaces from conduct that is incompatible with preserving the moral fabric of our families and communities.

4. Affirmation of family and spiritual values

Our congregation stands for wholesome public conduct, respect for creation, and the dignity of the human person in accordance with biblical truth. We affirm the centrality of the family — mother, father, and children — as ordained by God (Ephesians 5:25-6:4). We advocate for public policies that safeguard children, that preserve modesty and decency in our communal life, and that do not trivialize sexual identity or public performance in ways that undermine Christian formation.

5. A respectful request

Therefore, in light of HB 249’s intent to regulate adult cabaret performance and protect minors from exposure to inappropriate public conduct, I offer my strong support for the bill’s protective aims. At the same time, I encourage you and your colleagues to carefully ensure that the legislation is drafted and implemented in a manner that respects religious liberty, parental rights, and the responsibility of faith communities — so that no unintended suppression of genuine worship, artistic expression, or ministry arises.

I respectfully urge you to:

- Recognize the moral and spiritual dimension of public decency and its impact on children.
- Support legislation that protects minors from exposure to indecent or exploitative performance.
- Ensure the bill respects religious and moral convictions of faith-based organizations and families.
- Engage with pastors, parents, and community leaders in dialogue as the bill advances.

In conclusion

We live in a culture that increasingly challenges biblical norms of modesty, family, and spiritual formation. As a pastor, I believe it is vital for the Church to speak into public policy with clarity and compassion. I thank you for your service to our state and trust that you will consider these concerns prayerfully, guided by the fear of the Lord and the welfare of our children.

Should you or your staff wish to discuss further, I would welcome the opportunity to meet, pray, and collaborate in seeking wise policy that honours God, protects children, and promotes wholesome community life.

Yours in Christ,

Randall Kutz

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