

Subject: Oppose HB 249

Dear Chair Jim Thomas and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Megan Patrick and I am a resident of Green Township and a constituent. I am writing to strongly oppose HB 249, which seeks to restrict drag performances in Ohio.

Drag is a vibrant, artistic expression that brings joy to our community and economic activity to our local businesses. As a resident, I have seen firsthand how these performances can bring a community together in celebration of freedom of expression.

This bill is unnecessary, as existing obscenity laws already protect minors. Instead, HB 249 will stifle freedom of expression, target the LGBTQ+ community, and create a chilling effect on artistic freedom.

Bills like HB 249 have already been struck down as unconstitutional on first amendment freedom of speech grounds. Montana, Tennessee, Florida, Texas all have had similar laws deemed unconstitutional. Yet Ohio is still wasting taxpayer money on this.

Please vote NO on HB 249.

Sincerely,
Megan Patrick
2410 Boudinot Ave.
Cincinnati Ohio 45211