

Drag is a longstanding form of artistic expression and performance. Like theater, comedy, or costume art, it allows performers to explore identity, creativity, and storytelling. Simply put, drag is not inherently dangerous to children. It is no different from other forms of entertainment where performers dress in costumes or portray characters.

Equally important, drag is protected expression under the First Amendment. Our Constitution safeguards the freedom of speech and artistic expression, even when some may personally disagree with it. Laws that target a specific form of performance because of its message or style risk undermining those fundamental freedoms.

Parents—not the government—should decide what performances or events are appropriate for their own children. Broad bans on drag do not protect families; they instead restrict artists, performers, and communities from expressing themselves freely.

Ohio has a strong tradition of supporting both the arts and constitutional rights. I urge you to uphold those values and oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.