

Testimony on H.B. 249 Bill
Submitted by: Carly A Breen
Testifying as Opponent

Chair Thomas Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Synenberg and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Carly A Breen, I live in Troy, and as a concerned citizen, I am asking this committee to oppose the House Bill 249 sub bill.

I disagree passionately with this bill because much of the language is subjective and up to the interpretation of the observer. For instance, what is defined as a "gender identity that is different from the performers or entertainer's biological sex" could be taken a million different ways but a million different people.

Meaning that anyone who performs under a gender identity that is not consistent with their sex assigned at birth outside of a legally-defined adult cabaret may be penalized by misdemeanors and felonies.

Example: In 1938, Helen Hulick, 28, wore slacks to court to testify against two men. The judge rescheduled the case, asking Hulick to return wearing a dress. When she returned the next day wearing slacks she was sent to jail. Just because women don't wear pants?

We need to protect children in Ohio but there are many other issues that need to be tackled to protect the youth - such as making sure they are safe, have food and are not exposed to online and in person predators in safe spaces such as churches or schools.

We should be tackling these issues - not fear-based policies that can discriminate against anybody wearing the wrong clothing.

I respectfully and strongly encourage the committee to stop the HB 249 bill from moving forward. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify about this legislation.