

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Maria Hettel. I am a family farmer based in Norwalk, Huron County - your district Chairman Manning. I am strongly opposed to H.B. No. 249.

I am opposed to this bill because it puts the onus on the cabaret performer to ensure there is no one of inappropriate age present. That is unfair. It is obvious this bill is looking to make it easy to prosecute cabaret performers for simply being cabaret performers. The onus of exposure to ANY kind of inappropriate performances/content should be on the parent/guardian of the child.

Having said that, it should be the parent's/guardian's choice on what they expose the child to. If they want to take their child to events where there may be cabaret performers, that is on them. This is not something that should be controlled by the government.

It is clear the writers of this bill do not like cabaret. That is fine. That is their preference and they are entitled to that. So that is their personal decision to not attend any kind of cabaret performance - whether that's in a night club or a reading in a library or an outdoor performance at a public street fair. What our elected officials should not be doing is making the decision for the rest of us.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Maria Hettel