

Alikai Linzani Monroe

Monday, March 16, 2026

Testimony on H. B. No. 249

Chair Thomas, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Synenber, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony today on House Bill 249. My name is Alikai Linzani Monroe and I am a citizen concerned with how this bill will affect the people of Ohio.

I oppose this bill firstly because it violates the freedom of speech portion of the United States constitution's first amendment. The language is vague and could be used to harass *any* person for not adhering to arbitrary standards of gender expression, likely in a similar manner to the infamous "swatting" phenomenon. "Drag" or cross-dressing has a long history in human culture and the arts, with notable examples being Scottish and Irish kilts, movies such as Mrs. Doubtfire, and theater performances such as Shakespeare. This bill's language could even apply to people dressing as mascots for sports teams or companies.

I request that the committee does not pass this bill. Ohio's current obscenity and indecent exposure laws *already* protect children from harm. Therefore, this bill, and the enforcement of it if passed, is frivolous drivel that wastes the valuable resources of lawmaker time and taxpayer money. The Ohio legislature should be focusing on improving the lives of Ohio's citizens by approving bills that, for example, provide funding for public transportation, schools, and infrastructure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Alikai Linzani Monroe

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