

Chair and members of the committee,

I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to House Bill 249. While protecting children and communities is a goal we all share, this legislation goes too far by broadly redefining “adult cabaret performance” and expanding indecency laws in ways that could restrict artistic expression and target certain performers based on gender expression.

The bill’s vague language risks criminalizing performances and creative expression that have long been part of theater, music, and community events. Laws that are overly broad can create confusion for performers, venues, and local communities while chilling free expression.

Ohio should focus on policies that protect young people without unfairly targeting artists or limiting lawful expression. I urge the committee to reject HB 249 and instead pursue balanced solutions that respect both community standards and fundamental freedoms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nicole Erinakes-Chauvette

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