

## Drag Testimony

March 16, 2026

My name is Jean Kozlowski. As the parent of a drag performer and a long time Ohio resident I am writing to express my support for the drag artists in our community. My daughter is a hard working college student and a life long theatre artist. She acts, sings, and dances. My daughter is female and performs as a female. Her hair, make up, costuming is exaggerated. This is comparable to any other stage performer. Drag is a powerful art form. I have attended many shows and events. These shows bring joy and inclusivity to many.

Drag shows are not just entertainment; they are vital community gatherings that offer acceptance to the LGBTQ+ community and foster a sense of belonging. I have had many conversations with participants and audience members that express gratitude for these performers. They love the light hearted entertainment, appreciate the artistry, and messages of positivity.

Drag show performances have strong economic impact. They increase sales and boost surrounding business revenues like dining and transportation. These shows attract LGBTQ+ community members. I have been present at events with various vendors that represent art, food, jewelry, and fashion businesses. This group has significant purchasing power. They provide positive support to local restaurants and bars.

Protecting the freedom of expression of all people is the cornerstone of our great nation. I encourage our Ohio lawmakers to protect the rights of these artists to perform and be seen.

Sincerely,

Jean Kozlowski

(Age 55/parent of an Ohio Drag Performer)