

My name is Betty, I am a community organizer in Union County. Im on several committees and non profit boards. Including one that organizes Marysville Pride Fest. An organization and members that would be directly negatively impacted by this bill.

I know that others will be appealing to you with their personal stories. I wanted to use my time to ask you if you thought more broadly about this bill and how it will affect things like family entertainment, the arts in Ohio and even the domestic violence support in my county.

Every year our local prosecutors office puts on an event called Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. I'm sure your colleague Tracy Richardson has graced it with a photo op at some point. This event raises funds for domestic violence prevention. Its an event where men dress up in red heels, some wear dresses and sport boas. Local police, judges and lawyers participate. Many of them SPEAK in these outfits with a microphone at these events, there can be music and they are in the middle of town, little boys also dress up. Its about relating to victims and walking in high heels, that isn't easy if you've ever tried it. How will you regulate this? How will you explain this to my local government or similar events that government institutions put on?

We have all watched Peter Pan, right? Peter is traditionally played by a woman. Can we show the movie with Sandy Duncan at our local theatre? Can the school plays still perform the play?

My last "what if" is about clowns. Clowning and drag overlap. Historically clowns portray people of exaggerated gender or gender bending through comedy. Drag performers occasionally do clowning as their act. Male presenting clowns might put on tutus or lipstick or powder their face and pretend to bat their eyes, does putting on makeup mean its all drag or is it okay if they put makeup over their clown make up? Will you be regulating the circus when it travels to our state? What about fairs where clowns perform?If you have looked deeply into drag to create this bill (im guessing not) you would see drag replicating aspects of clowning or just being a clown fully. So what's the difference? Do you have a clear idea on this overlap? If the answer is "no" to that last question, you should probably think hard before voting for this bill.

I could list more situations if I had the time but I want you to reflect on more than the exaggerated idea you have of drag and look at how complexly drag is woven into our culture. I bet every person in this room has done drag in their lives and I bet a few of you are doing drag right now under this proposed bill.