

Distinguished members of the house of Ohios representatives I write to you today with a heart heavy with fear. Fear that you have caused because of your own weakness. I live my life as you do. I get up in the mornings, I make my coffee, I put my pants on one leg at a time. I have family who loves me and friends who care about me and I have hobbies to fill up my free time. I am an individual who attends religious services, who holds space for the sabbath and holds a degree. I've never gotten as much as a speeding ticket in my life and yet your proposed bill, HB249 would seek to criminalize me for my hobbies. The hobby I use to supplement my income, the hobby that I use to raise funds for food banks and do book drives for libraries. I am the big bad scary drag artist you fear and seek to protect people from. This person who is no different in mind and soul, the only change is several layers of tights and a pencil thin mustache. With the passing of this bill I would be limited from engaging in community outreach, I could loose job opportunities, housing, and many more things marred with a criminal record for enjoying playing dress up an singing along to songs with my friends. Yet the vague verbiage of this bill could destroy much more than that. I could loose the love of my life. He is trans. Listed as female on birth certificate and drivers license. Yet born intersex. Naturally born with facial hair, broad shoulders, and a deep voice. The way god made him. You would seek to call his very existence born in the eyes of my god and yours a crime. "A misrepresentation of sex". He could be considered a criminal for simply being on a date with me, going to work, walking through the store. This bill is a gross abuse of power in an attempt to punish what you fear. I call to mind the fear that Hitler stored in the minds of the Germans. It did not start with rounding up the people I sit in synagogue with and condemning them to work or death. It started with the outcasts, the undesirables. The disabled, the immigrants, and the queers. Do not fall down the same path that my elders warned me of, do not be controlled and cause harm because of your fear. For of my freedom of expression can be limited and my partners existence criminalized how long before they come for you? Thank you for your time.