

March 16, 2026

Representative Jim Thomas,
Chair of House Judicial Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St
Columbus, OH 43215

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 249. I have been attending drag brunches for a little over a year now, I have not once seen anything obscene, phallic, or any action from any of the drag queens trying to “*lure [a] minor into sexual activity.*” They are places of self expression and acceptance that have a unique charm and give a beautiful sense of community, and confidence that is unmatched by anything else I’ve encountered. This bill personally makes me fear for the thousands of people who I’ve heard speak on their drag experience and speak so highly of the art, and how the art has bettered their lives in every possible way. I fear for the people who make the majority of their money off of tips from drag shows. And so I fear not only for an art that I am inspired by and love, but I fear for those who use that art for food, shelter, and for other vital resources. And as someone who knows these entertainers they are not malicious, they are inspiring, and they are kind, and they are gentle. so please take them into consideration.

I Thank you so much for your reading of my testimony, and I ask you to consider the artist in the entertainers that build, such a strong sense of community and love for one another.

Thank you

Brenna Bettinger