

Good morning,

I am writing to submit written opposition to HB 249. The language of bills banning performances that feature gender nonconformance opens the door to undue regulation of anyone who wears clothes that do not belong to their gender assigned at birth. In the past, laws like these have been used to terrorize regular people who happen to wear clothes different than those assigned at birth, particularly LGBTQ+ people. This law could be applied to a woman wearing men's clothes singing a karaoke song that includes obscene lines or a man with makeup on doing stand up. This law opens the door to an entirely possible overreach of the application that would infringe on everyone's freedom if applied by an unconscionable actor. Additionally, this law largely addresses a non-issue, as drag performances that are obscene are not inviting children to come to their shows, so at that point it is on the parents to follow rules around what spaces they should and should not bring their children to. We should trust parents to protect their children instead of creating a law that under the wrong enforcer could infringe on people's rights to wear clothes they like and be in public spaces.

Best wishes,
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