

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent of HB 245, the Adult Cabaret Act.

My name is Ryan Kaiser and I am a 34 year old father of three young children who has spent his entire life living in Ohio (Coldwater, Dayton, Cincinnati and now Celina). I am involved with local community organizations and my local church to help others and improve our local communities that I am raising my children around and I appreciate all your efforts to do so on a statewide level!

I believe this bill needs to be enacted at the earliest opportunity to protect children's innocence. You are likely aware of the drag show events held in Celina over the past two years that Rep. Angie King was vocally against, and which led her towards sponsoring this bill. In viewing videos of the 2022 drag show performance at the Celina Pride event, I was astonished that this type of performance was legal as I have never heard of or seen such lewd performances in front of minors - some of which were quite young! As videos of the 2022 performances spread, many local community members began voicing their concerns about this type of lewd performance not only being held in an open public area that is frequently visited by children, but also encouraging children to attend. In response to an overwhelming majority of the local communities' concerns, the Celina Pride event organizers made a few improvements to the 2023 performance but have tried to spin the public's concerns as being anti-LGBT. I (and nearly everyone in my local community I've spoken with) are strongly against any type of lewd performance (LGBT, straight, drag, strippers, etc.) being held in front of children or in open public locations in which children have easy access to.

Ohio's children should be protected from obscene performances in public spaces. When it comes to adult performances and adult imagery, those expressions need to be in adult establishment where minors are not present. Protecting children from exploitation and the robbing of their innocence is a matter of utmost importance.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Ohio and your time and consideration today of my testimony today in support of HB 245.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Kaiser', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Kaiser