

Chairwomen 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. It is critically important that this legislation goes through as fast as humanly possible to protect our children. Each additional minute that goes by that allows minors to be subjected to adult entertainers is “harmful” and should be in adult-only establishments.

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 establishments where minors are not present. Protecting children from exploitation and the robbing of their innocence is a matter of utmost importance.

I read an article dated 8/29/2022 from the Heros of Literacy titled “What is Drag Queen Story Hour and Why Should Parents Care? In the article “Kitty Demure” a drag queen was interviewed stating that drag is a sexualized art form, and as such inappropriate for children. Kitty (he) asked “Would you want a stripper or a porn star to influence your child? It makes no sense at all! A drag queen performs in a nightclub for adults; there is a lot of filth that goes on, a lot of sexual stuff that goes on. And backstage, there’s a lot of nudity, sex, and drugs, ok? So, I don’t think that this is an avenue you would want your child to explore”. He went on to say, “My problem is this; they (drag queens) are there for an agenda. They’re not there to read *Alice in Wonderland* and just leave. They’re there to talk about gender. They’re there to talk about being different, and, you know, then the whole lifestyle gets talked about-homosexuality, trans issues, the 10 million genders that we have now; you know, they’ll tell boys “Hey you can be a girl if you want”.

“These are topics that are not meant for a child’s mind. You know, they don’t even know what they want for dinner. It’s like, how do they know anything about gender and sex and sexuality? They’re educating the kids on those issues”.

I read that the drag queen story hour and/or shows state they are for diversity. Where are the handicapped people, the largest minority? I see no mention of them. What about blacks, Hispanics, Asians, etc.? If it is truly about diversity, it would be about the largest group, correct? I have adult handicapped children and the handicapped along with veterans are highly ignored and not even mentioned.

Wouldn’t it be better to have veterans and/or seniors read to children? One would have to ask what do these drag queens want with young children? What IS their agenda?

I remember when I was a child, my mother gave birth to my brother and was coming out of the hospital with him. I was 3 years old. My mom was in a wheelchair with my baby brother with a white cloth on her. The nurses back then wore all white. Hospitals were not child friendly like now. I was so scared when I saw her and the nurse because I thought she was a ghost. I could not move. What does a 3-year-old feel like when they see one of the men dressed up so ghastly like the drag queens are? Many small children are afraid of Santa and regular friendly clowns at this

age. What does seeing a drag queen do to them? I am 68 years old and still remember that day and the fear I had. What nightmares will this cause our children? Children are not mature enough for this.

Chair Abrams, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation. We need to protect our children. Please help get this passed to protect them.

Sharon Madger

ucandoit@twc.com

440-279-7762