

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for hearing my support testimony for HB 245. HB 245 is common sense legislation that protects Ohio children from public displays of “adult cabaret performances” that are “Harmful to juveniles and obscene” by the standards of current state law.

As an Ohio parent I do not want my children exposed to public displays of stripper type sexual performances regardless of whether it is a biological woman or a man posing as a biological woman. While certain political groups will want to make this bill about LGBTQ “discrimination” or “acceptance”. It simply is not. Both biological and transgender sexual dancing or stripper-like routines are inappropriate for children. “Gender identity” is irrelevant and is only being used as political leverage. This bill does not negatively impact the trans-community in their day-to-day lives. It only prohibits drag shows that are “obscene” as already defined within current law. Parents who want to protect their children from these types of displays from a person, regardless of their gender, should not have to worry about walking past a public park or local fair and having our kids subject to this type of performance. The only way to ensure that, is to make sure those types of performances are in designated adult locations.

Our children are bombarded with sexual content far too often and parents who wish to maintain some moral boundaries regarding sexuality already have to take many steps to try to protect our kids. Public cabaret type displays make it impossible for us to protect them. Today I am asking the committee to protect Ohio children from public exposure to sexual cabaret displays, and prevent the grooming of children into mindset of normalizing hyper-sexuality.

Let’s let our children be children.

Protect them.

Please vote yes on HB 245.

-Stephanie Stock