

DO NOT PASS HB 1333

Dear Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. I am writing to you today to urge you to recommend a DO NOT PASS on HB 1333. The sponsors of this bill would like you to believe that drag performers are sexual deviants, working to corrupt the lives and minds of youth. That drag performers want to infect cis kids with the germ of queerness ensuring that children follow their queer ways. This of course is a tale made up to spread fear, and stoke misinformation in those that are eager to pick up a juicy storyline from conservative media. Representative Pritchard is woefully misinformed and even worse, chooses to carry harmful mistruths about queer people and drag performers to anyone that will listen.

My concern about the enactment of this bill is that queer people will be arrested for walking down the streets, dancing in local parks, or for just being themselves in front of the wrong person. This bill harkens back to 1930's Germany; arresting those who go against the scripted and made up views of the loudest speakers. Trans and queer people are scared, they do not know what the future holds for them in North Dakota, and if they will be safe here. It seems the sponsors of this bill are hoping queer and trans people are legislated so deeply that they cannot live publicly in the state anymore. Why would anyone want to live in a state like that?

We have a restaurant in Fargo called Twin Peaks; scantily clad women serving food in a “family” atmosphere. “The second you step inside, you’re surrounded by a lodge full of friendly and attentive Twin Peaks Girls serving up scratch food”, “only here you can truly embrace the Lodge *Mentality*.” “Our Twin Peaks Girls are the essential ingredient to the perfect lodge experience. They are the beautiful faces that represent the brand and the reason our customers consistently come back for more”. See photos below (Out of respect, I have blurred their faces):



Now, this establishment allows minors entry; these women arguably wear less than the queens and kings at a drag show, but the larger community is fine with this display of vulgarity. To me, this is overtly sexual, and minors have no business being in this environment. But again this is my opinion, and my opinion is subjective; as is this bill.

Unlike the women pictured above, drag performers work for the love of their art. They perform songs and skits and are there to entertain a crowd. There is no nefarious or harmful undertones to their performance, they are there to entertain. What is the purpose of the Twin Peaks Girls? Objectification and pleasure of the male gaze is my guess, I have trouble coming up with anything else. If this bill passes, will these girls be subjected to its restraints? If not, then why?

Again, I urge a DO NOT PASS on this bill. This bill does nothing to push our state forward, and is only designed to push queer folk back into the shadows. We cannot allow this to happen in 2023. We cannot legislate away people we do not understand or agree with.

Thank you