

My testimony is in opposition to HB 1333 and I ask that you give this bill a Do NOT Pass.

This bill is harmful to many individuals including the state of North Dakota. What this bill is telling individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+ is that you are not wanted here. What this means for the state is that many LGBTQIA+ businesses that help support your economy, will leave because you decided to show that you do not care about us. Our local drag queens help raise money for the community and to take away from that is to take away from all those organizations who receive that money.

This bill will also prevent LGBTQIA+ children and young adults from having a safe space. Calling drag queens adult performers is ignorant. Drag queens can perform for both children and adults. We adapt our performances and our outfits to be kid friendly. We do not do these shows for the money, we do them to provide a safe space. A teen once told me that they finally felt comfortable with who they are after watching our show. They said that they felt like they had a place to be themselves, which they never had before. If this bill is passed we are taking away from that support system and as we know that is so important in reducing risk for suicidality. Having one affirming adult can reduce the risk of suicide significantly. I dont want to see children dying because they have nowhere to go to get support. I want to see children thriving, happy, and healthy.

If someone does not like drag, then dont go to a show. If you do not want your kid to see drag that is fine but do not take away from other individuals who want their kids to have a safe space.

Representation matters. Safe spaces matter. Queer spaces matter. Without safe spaces like these we are going to see an increase in suicides among children and young adults. Do you want that blood on your hands?

Thank you for your time,

Leah Wozniak