

Dear Chair Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to the House Bill 1333 . I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

The reason for this is as a parent, entertainer, show producer, community member and consumer. I feel this is not only against the freedom of the individual but also against the freedoms of a business owner. There are many events that are all ages and inclusive that are being presented from businesses as a community gathering but also an inclusive space especially for our LGBTQIA2S+ friends and family. If there are businesses that do not want to have these events at their establishment that is up to them and how they want to proceed forward. Putting a Drag King or Drag Queen in the same sentence as adult entertainment (examples given were topless dancers, go - go dancers, exotic dancers and strippers) is not only ignorant but also very telling of what these supporters think of our community. To say that we have a right to go to established adult entertainment businesses and then turn around and lump all ages events into those businesses is like saying that bugs bunny in drag is the equivalent of watching an adult film with sexual content and nudity. As a producer I am constantly aware of the changing climate of our youth and parents in that there are more places saying what is wrong with our youth than what is right. What is right is that a thriving youth is 40% more successful in their lives and into adulthood the more they are accepted. The number one export of North Dakota is our youth. The most wasted resource we have in North Dakota is our youth. Legislation constantly targets the youth they do not understand nor do they take the time to actually meet with them. These are human children and the basis of those two words themselves means that they have a right to life, liberty and happiness. To the pursuit of their dreams and the ability to thrive.

Instead of focusing on our childcare needs, mental health and addiction crisis in North Dakota we are now using tax dollars to have adults sit around and write up legislation for something that is already widely accepted around the world. The acceptance is for youth to be supported and affirmed to become the adults we all need to continue our communal society. Being LGBTQIA2S+ is as controversial to these supporters as interracial marriage was at one time. My own mother remembers segregation in North Dakota schools because she grew up in it. My own grandmother and mother have been present with me for the first Gay Pride Parade in Fargo, ND up to this last year which was one of the biggest parades in this state. These events alone bring commerce and residents to our state and they stay because they feel they belong. Does our legislation really need to continue to prove to these families that they are not welcome?

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state

Best regards,

Sarah Galbraith