

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 that I am the pastor of a church some of whose members reside in North Dakota, including people who have or will perform in shows known as “drag” shows. These performances do not match the categories of other types of shows listed in HB1333. I believe that drag shows have been misclassified in HB1333, along with topless dancers and strippers. While there might occasionally be overlap between these types of performances, there are plenty of “male or female impersonators” whose artistic expression is not sexually suggestive or revealing in the way that topless dancers and strippers are. “Go-go dancers,” likewise, do not necessarily engage in anything sexually suggestive or revealing.

By including these categories alongside forms of entertainment that are explicitly sexual, this bill will have an impact that is far reaching and limiting. It also sends a particular message to drag performers, even those who have made it a point to make their performances appropriate for all ages. Why would we spend state and local resources curtailing this harmless entertainment?

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

Best regards,

Rev. Michelle Webber