

MY LETTER OPPOSING HB 1333

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.

As a parent, community member, LGBTQIA2S+ person, and consumer, I feel this is not only against the freedom of the individual but also against the freedom 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.

I was shocked that drag performers were included in the same category as exotic dancers/strippers etc. where nudity is involved. It is wrong to assume this grouping and shows that whomever penned this legislation does not understand the issue they are trying to oppose.

This legislation is a waste of time and harmful to the community. Some damage has already been done as it is causing fear and misunderstanding. It is yet more legislation that is trying to restrict and control myself and my peers. There are actual issues that need to be tended to in North Dakota that DO impact the welfare of children, lets focus on those.

As a transgender person I find this and other upcoming legislation very disturbing, ignorant, and controlling in nature. I feel like being who I am is controversial. Sadly many people still see the LGBTQIA2S+ community as a group of misfits making immoral lifestyle choices. We are not. Despite all of the information and support available, and education, North Dakota is still living in the 50s or possibly earlier in terms of this issue and others. Only those invested in the demise of North Dakotas reputation (which isnt great anyway in regards to LGBTQIA2S+ people, maybe we should work on improving that?) and further restriction of our rights want to see this pass. This legislation is fear based and unwarranted.

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

Sincerely,

Claire Gaddie