

## Written Testimony in **Opposition** to HB 1333

I stand in opposition to HB 1333. Given that North Dakota already has laws governing obscenity, this bill serves no purpose other than to discriminate against drag performance – making the false equivalency that simply to dress in drag is obscene. This ignores a long history of public drag performances, including the use of male actors playing female roles, beginning in ancient Greece when women were barred from stage, and continuing in the plays of William Shakespeare. In the ballet “Cinderella” the wicked stepsisters are played by men. More recently, Dustin Hoffman played a female in the beloved and empowering movie “Tootsie,” and Robin Williams played a female nanny in “Mrs. Doubtfire.” Children are not harmed simply because a person is dressed in drag.

This bill strikes me as unnecessary and harmful government meddling in personal freedoms and choices of families, as to what entertainment they wish to enjoy. It restricts the freedom of drag performers and their creativity in developing family-friendly shows.

Therefore I stand in opposition and urge a Do Not Pass on HB 1333.

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