

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 this bill affects individuals I care about, and I know that all-ages shows in Grand Forks do it for the kids. Some of the performers are aware that we may not get tip much, but we are providing a safe environment for children and their families. In addition to these performances, we have raised funds for numerous charities and communities. These performances have been misrepresented as adult entertainment and unsuitable for young audiences. We have limitations in terms of what we dress and how we lip-sing. We do our best to make our All-Ages Show PG, or at the very least PG-13.

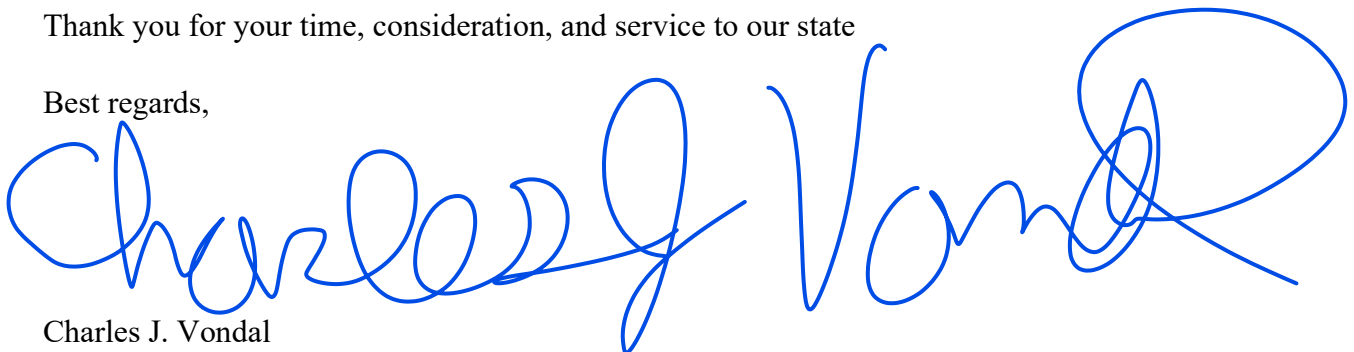
Whereas this law incorrectly associates all drag performances with adult entertainment and may have unintended consequences, such as when it comes to gender-bending in theater. What then, does someone have to be fined for gender-bending a character in play? Drag has been around for generations; I recall watching Mrs. Doubtfire, Madea movies, Mrs. Brown's Boys, Busy Bunny, and many more as a child.

Passing this bill not only affects the performers but also the businesses that host them. Any business in this state should be entitled to make economic decisions without political meddling, but I believe it also alienates residents. What is the point of burdening small and local businesses even more? This is simply an attempt by a small group of people to impose a personal belief on residents of this state. If you do not want your child(ren) to attend a show, please do not go. Other caregivers can make their own decisions about whether to allow their child(ren) to attend a show.

Hence why I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

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

Best regards,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles J. Vondal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and flourishes.

Charles J. Vondal