

Senate Judiciary Committee
March 20th, 2023
HB 1333- Testimony in Opposition

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Whitney Oxendahl and I am writing in opposition to HB 1333.

My family, including my three small children, attend the Fargo-Moorhead Pride Parade every year. It's one of the best parades of the year - fun, colorful, and inclusive. It brings people downtown and into the community. If this bill passes, the parade would become the Moorhead Pride Parade. The festivities would no longer be able to pass through downtown Fargo, because of the clothes that people are wearing.

Drag is a celebration, an art, and a part of LGBTQ+ culture. This bill seems aimed at taking away the culture of the LGBTQ+ community in the interest of "protecting children." I have children ages 2, 4, and 7, and it has not hurt them to see people dressed in drag. This bill takes other people's beliefs on what children should or should not experience and puts them on my family instead of letting us decide.

If a parent does not want their child to see drag, then they shouldn't bring them to the Pride Parade or bring them to an all-ages drag show. I urge you to leave this parenting decision up to parents and keep the state government out of it.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.