

Dear Chair Larson and members of the Sentate Judicaiaiy Committee.

This is my testimony in opposition Bill 1333.

I ask that this bill not be passed. This bill is discriminatory and would be making the State of North Dakota fall backwards. House Bill 1333 is targeting drag performers in relation to performing in front of children and being inappropriate as it's "adult entertainment." However, as a drag performer, I know this to be farthest from the truth. At the shows I attend, I know with a 100% degree of certainty, when we do all age shows it is appropriate and we are creating a safe place for all members of the LGBTQIA+ community. We create a unique and safe environment for everyone to be who they are and be supported and loved for who they are. Nothing we do is inappropriate for children, but if that is a concern of yours, leave it to the businesses allowing the shows to happen on their premises and to the parents and families of those children. This bill will bring us back decades if it is to pass. We as a country have been entertained by drag for decades. Take Mrs. Doubtfire for example. Robin Williams is dressed in drag portraying and elderly woman, however that movie has been a family favorite for 2 or more decades.

If we are concerned about the children, why not focus on better mental health treatment and intervention and suicide prevention? Why not focus on better domestic violence prevention, health care programs, drug treatment programs, etc. Things that are actually a cause of concern in this state.

This bill is going to wreak havoc on the state, and it's going to be detrimental to an entire already marginalized community. Our country is already so divided and this bill is only going to further divide this state.

Please, while you are discussing this bill, remember that this negatively impacts and entire marginalized community that is already struggling to have representation.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding.

Parker Leigh