



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1333

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Good afternoon, Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen, and I am representing North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. We are testifying in support of House Bill 1333 and respectfully request that you issue a “DO PASS” on this bill.

This bill seeks to protect North Dakota children, plain and simple. From what? From performances that are not age appropriate. Performances where the focus is to expose children to topics of sexuality for which they are not ready. These kids should be playing with Legos and Matchbox Cars, making string art, and finger painting, not tipping drag performers with cash as they writhe in front of them (see Attachment A for a still shot of this situation captured on video at a Dallas drag show).

Under this bill, what happens to these types of performances in non-public spaces or that are not in direct sight of children? Nothing - that is not the purpose of this bill – no matter how much we may disagree with the values implicit in the shows and whether to attend them. Further, it is not a slippery slope either, as some might argue. Strip clubs, adult performance venues, and the like have been around virtually forever. It is the *pushing/expanding* of sexualized performances to *public* exposure that has precipitated this bill, not the private, existing ones.

North Dakota lawmakers are not prone to put laws in place for things that are not already a problem in their state, and there are often sensible reasons for this. But in this case, it has happened. On June 18, 2022, there was a drag queen show on the grounds of the Capitol, right here, called *Pride on the North Dakota Capitol Lawn* (there were similar events in previous years). It featured drag queens, sidewalk art, music, and face painting. Further, they explicitly stated, “Event is FREE and All Ages Welcome!”¹ Surprised? Nearly every North Dakotan I’ve told about this is shocked and appalled. This is obviously not merely aimed at adults, but clearly also at children, with the goal of grooming them and numbing them to this over-sexualization.

¹ <https://dakotaoutright.org/capital-pride/>



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As one article on the subject succinctly put it, “A child is not a prop to be used for political statements or for showing off that one is open-minded and “hip.”²

You may hear testimony today about freedom of expression, homophobia, and the like, but it really comes down to this. On that sunny June day last year, would you have been OK with your child or grandchild standing and watching that performance on the Capitol lawn? That’s what this is about.

Those are some of the reasons that we at North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully request that you vote HB 1333 out of committee with a “DO PASS” recommendation.

Thank you for allowing me to testify, and I’d now be happy to stand for any questions

² <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/community-family/why-drag-queen-performances-are-not-appropriate-for-children>

Attachment A: Drag Show in Dallas, Texas



Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-politics-and-policy/texas-lawmaker-proposes-ban-minors-watching-drag-shows-cna332183>