

# HB 1333

Rep. Prichard, Sen. Estenson, Rep. Frelich, Rep. Klemin, Rep. Koppelman, Rep. Marschall, Rep. Motschenbacher, Rep. D. Ruby, Rep. Tveit, Rep. VanWinkle

68th legislative assembly

Peace Garden Room

3/20/2023

2:30 pm

HB 1333

IN OPPOSITION

Introduction

My name is Stephen DeMarco. My drag performer persona is Robyn Spotlight. I am testifying against your bill to restrict drag performances.

As a performer and a father, I strongly urge you to change your standing. My daughter has never had the opportunity to see me perform at an all ages show. If this bill passes, she never will. I have taken her to an all ages drag show. Every single song and outfit was specifically tailor to meet the need of the audience. My child is very supportive of me and I wouldn't dare take her to an adult show because that's recklessly irresponsible of me as a father. You cannot assume we are all just animals that do as we please. We are entertainers, so we absolutely have to be aware of who is in the crowd.

I understand that drag is something that scares people. It's taboo to a lot of people and it can be frightening to those that don't understand. But therein lies my point. How can a ruling be made on a matter you have no experience with? On that statement, how can you call this the "Peace Garden State" when peace is all inclusive? You seek to exclude a large group of people that pay your taxes but treat us like trash. I cannot see a logical reasoning for bills like this other than a "we don't want you in our club because we don't like you" mentality, except on a larger and much more violent scale.

The people I know and the people I've performed with know it's only a matter of time before you ban drag shows altogether. It's already happened elsewhere in the country and we all know this would be your ideal setting.

Honestly, a lot of us would love to spend time with children and share their joy, because just about all of the queer community never got to enjoy their childhood due to the thought process behind bills like this. You can write me off as someone else complain from the community, I don't care.

The LGBTQIA+ does not want to hurt your children. They want to help them experience a life that they never had.

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