

Summary: Protecting minors from inappropriate content and performances

Madam chair and members of the judiciary committee.

Introduction:

1. I like to believe that we all, as adults, want to protect children. The safety, well-being, and healthy development of minors are crucial aspects of a thriving society.
2. It is the duty of communities and policymakers to ensure that minors are not exposed to harmful or inappropriate content.
3. This is a great bill in front of us because it directly addresses female impersonators and exotic dancers.
4. You, as lawmakers, have an opportunity to take impactful action.
5. Negative impact on children's psychological, emotional, and social development.

Psychological and Emotional Development Repercussions

1. Exposing minors to adult-themed performances
 - a. Will interfere with the **psychological and emotional** development of children
2. This is why we already have some laws in place
 - a. Not allowing minors to attend bars until they are 21
 - i. Title 5, Chapter 5-02 or the North Dakota century code.
 - b. Casinos until at least 18
 - c. The human brain is not fully developed until a person is in their 20's.
 - d. **For the same reasons, I ask the question then, why would we allow children to observe sexually explicit content of any kind?**
3. Early exposure to a child's brain that is **still developing**
 - a. Causing confusion
 - i. gender roles
 - ii. identity
 - iii. Healthy relationships
 - iv. Overall appropriate behavior
4. Early exposure to this sexual content leads to the **sexualization of minors**

Social Development and Peer Pressure Repercussions

1. Increased peer pressure to do things a child does not want to do
2. Normalization of inappropriate behavior
 - a. Causes minors to be more susceptible to engaging in risky activities
 - b. Embracing gender stereotypes that can hinder growth and development

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Introduction:

I like to believe that we all, as adults, want to protect the safety and wellbeing of children. The safety, well-being, and healthy development of minors are crucial aspects of a thriving society. It is the duty of communities and policymakers to ensure that minors are not exposed to potentially harmful or inappropriate content. One such area of concern is the exposure of minors to adult-oriented performances, specifically those involving female impersonators and exotic dancers. These activities certainly have a negative impact on children's psychological, emotional, and social development.

Argument 1: Psychological and Emotional Development

Exposing minors to adult-themed performances, such as those by female impersonators and exotic dancers, may interfere with their psychological and emotional development. Minors, particularly young children, are still developing their understanding of gender roles, identity, and social norms. Exposure to provocative performances might lead to confusion, anxiety, or misperceptions about appropriate behavior.

Moreover, adult-themed performances often involve sexually suggestive content that may not be suitable for minors. Early exposure to such content might contribute to the premature sexualization of minors, leading to inappropriate behavior or misconceptions about healthy relationships.

The state of North Dakota does not allow minors to attend bars serving alcohol, because it is illegal for persons under the age of 21 to consume alcohol. Details of this can be found in Title 5, Chapter 5-02 or the North Dakota century code. One reason minors are not allowed to legally consume alcohol is because the human brain is not fully developed until a person is in their 20's. For the same reasons, I ask the question then, why would we allow children to observe sexually explicit content of any kind?

Argument 2: Social Development and Peer Pressure

Allowing female impersonators and exotic dancers to perform in front of minors could also negatively impact their social development. Minors may be influenced by their peers' reactions to these performances, leading to peer pressure or the normalization of inappropriate behavior. Such exposure

may make minors more susceptible to engaging in risky activities, seeking validation through sexualized behavior, or embracing gender stereotypes that can hinder their growth and development.

Argument 3: Legal and Ethical Considerations

Prohibiting female impersonators and exotic dancers from performing in front of minors is a matter of legal and ethical responsibility. Laws and regulations are in place to protect minors from exposure to explicit content, such as age restrictions for attending certain events or accessing explicit media. These laws recognize the importance of safeguarding the well-being and development of minors.

Furthermore, ethical considerations demand that communities and policymakers prioritize the protection of minors from potentially harmful content. By establishing guidelines and restrictions on performances, society can maintain a safe and nurturing environment for children and adolescents.

Argument 4: Parental Rights

There are some that would say that it is the parents right to choose if they want to take their children to events addressed in this bill. I am all for parental rights, but history has show us that we, as a society, need to draw lines using our legal system to protect the innocence of children.

Do you think that it is appropriate to bring a child to a strip club and view biological females dressed in scant clothing dancing with a pole? If not, how much more inappropriate is it to bring a child to a drag show or event that has biological males dressed as females in scant clothing dancing with poles?

Conclusion:

In conclusion, prohibiting female impersonators and exotic dancers from performing in front of minors is an essential step in protecting their psychological, emotional, and social development. By restricting access to adult-themed performances, communities and policymakers can ensure that minors grow and develop in a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment. Protecting children is a legitimate state interest. The legal and ethical responsibility to protect minors from inappropriate content requires that society takes these concerns seriously and enacts measures to prevent potential harm.