

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs
For SB 12
Compiled on: Thursday, May 11, 2023 1:38 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: May 10, 2023 8:00 AM

Jean Davis
Self
Fort worth, TX

Between sex education and sexualized drag performances for children some in Texas don't care for anything else. As a grandma of 10, I do and I want to see SB 12 go forward to protect the next generation.

Kathy Haigler
Self - Election Consultant
Dale, TX

I SUPPORT SB12. Even in a land of free speech, the government must limit what we expose our children to. If parents want their children to see drag shows, they can take them to the shows on family time, but anything sponsored by the government has no business being sexual or graphic. As a woman, I find the over-exaggerated makeup and costumes offensive and insulting, but even without them, the bodily gestures are still inappropriate for a program sponsored by the government - for ANY age. When we have kids who can't even read their diplomas, why are we spending time on this nonsense?

Karole Fedrick
Self, retired
Austin, TX

I am registering in favor of SB12 and ask that it be voted out of committee NOW and sent to Calendars ASAP. Protecting children from sexually oriented performances should be a bipartisan no-brainer for anyone who puts the welfare of children above politics. How can anyone with any integrity think it's acceptable to have children subjected to the sexualized, confusing messages of these "performances"? Examine your heart. Be brave. Stand up for the children. Thank you.

Stacy McMahan
Self
Gilmer, TX

I am in support of Senator Hughes' SB 12.

Nancy Woods, Ms.

home/ I am speaking for myself, as a citizen of Texas

Houston, TX

Future generations of Texans will thank you if you support HB 12. We must protect our children from exposure to Drag Shows!

Lorraine Kruczek, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

Please pass SB12 to prohibit the sexualization of our children.

Mitzi Higginbotham, Mrs.

Self/Educator

Reklaw Texas, TX

I support SB 12 by Senator Hughes and urge that it gets passed to the governor's desk for his signature. There is no good reason for a grown, horny man to be gyrating his genitals in front of children, on the premises of a commercial enterprise, or public property! This is not ART. THIS IS PERVERSION at its finest. If adults want to attend these kind of performances that is their freedom of choice, but please protect minors from sexually oriented performances or "Family Friendly Drag Shows". I fear the repercussion of what it will do to the developing minds of children in the classroom. Their focus will NOT be on academics, but sexual fantasies that their bodies and minds are not developmentally ready. Children attending sexually oriented performances will be scarred for life. "But if you (the Senate and House) cause one of these little ones who trusts me to fall into sin, it would be better for you (S/H) to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea. Matt. 18:6 NLT
Protect Children at all cost! They are so precious and a gift from GOD.

Susan Perez

Citizens for Education Reform and self

Lubbock, TX

Thank you for supporting SB 12 and protecting children from the sexualization of Drag Queen events. Why would any adult want a child watching such perverse displays? Please protect minors that can't vote or make other adult decisions.

Thank you for your service.

k holt

John Birch Society

SMITHVILLE, TX

Please pass this bill.

Anna Bartosh

self

San Angelo, TX

For the sake of our most precious commodity please vote for SB 12 that restricts sexually oriented performances on public property, on the premises of a commercial enterprise, or in the presence of a child and anyone doing so needs to be charged with a criminal offense.

Amanda Logan

self

Austin, TX

Please support this bill! The fact that we have to create a bill for this and that any school or place where children are present would consider having sexual performances to groom and sexualize children is very sad. We can do better Texas! It's time to start putting children first before politics. Please protect children and vote FOR this bill and AGAINST sexualization of children and sexually oriented performances on school property.

Amanda Sylvie

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote to prevent minors from being exposed to sexually oriented performances. So many children attending public schools have been exposed to or have experienced sexual violence, and further exposure to such content impairs their healing. There is absolutely no good reason for any child to be exposed to sexually oriented performances. It is a shame that such a bill even needs to come before a legislature. I ask that you do the right thing and protect the children from further exposure to sexually oriented performances. Thank you.

M C Taylor

Self

Denison, TX

We don't approve of these drag shows and the sexuality presented to minors and adults too. All other sexual oriented performances are inappropriate for our children and these should be included as well.

Katherine Regis

Self / Engineer

Wimberley, TX

I vehemently oppose SB12. This bill is an un American trampling of our US Constitution's First Amendment. Additionally, the poor wording of the bill could lead to even transgender or gender nonconforming people being persecuted for merely existing. Please stop SB12.

Mason Walker

Self/Recruitment

San Antonio, TX

I urge the committee to vote AGAINST SB12. I know that the bill has been narrowed from its original version so that it supposedly only targets drag that is "sexualized." But my experience is that to a lot of people, drag, and indeed queer identity in general, is "sexual" by default.

So, this bill, however thoroughly amended, is still vague enough to be used in obvious bad faith. Also, since not every event will be able to certify the exact age of every attendee, what this bill will actually result in is a chilling effect on all drag-related performances. I'm aware that, technically, that is what some of you may want. But for those of you who pride yourselves on defending free speech: this supposedly "targeted" bill will actually have wide-ranging consequences, and I would urge you to hold true to the principle of free expression and vote against it.

Antoinette Hegger

Self

Springtown, TX

Vote yes

Toni Fabry

Self

Tyler, TX

I am writing to register my full support of SB 12 which would protect children from Drag Shows in public establishments.

Thank You!

Reed Bilz, Ms

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to ask that you OPPOSE SB 12.

The Texas Legislature should be spending the limited time it has in session passing legislation that will benefit all Texans. Instead, SB 12 targets small business owners with frivolous civil penalties for simply operating a venue where drag performances take place. Moreover, the bill would charge drag artists with a misdemeanor for performing in the presence of a minor - regardless of the content.

I urge the committee not to advance SB 12 out of the State Affairs committee. Thank you

Michael McKee

Self

Tomball, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children. Their innocence is worth protecting. No child should be exposed to anything sexual in nature.

Cindy Fountain, Ms

Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry

Cleburne, TX

I oppose this bill. The Texas Legislature should be spending the limited time it has in session passing legislation that will benefit all Texans. Instead, SB 12 targets small business owners with frivolous civil penalties for simply operating a venue where drag performances take place. Moreover, the bill would charge drag artists with a misdemeanor for performing in the presence of a minor - regardless of the content. I urge the committee not to advance SB 12 out of the State Affairs committee. Thank you.

Leslie Quinnell

Self

Austin, TX

It should be a criminal offense if someone subjects a child to inappropriate sexualized performances or pornography. As a mother and teacher, I'm outraged and shocked that anyone thinks it is ok to sexualize children. Please support SB 12

Adelle Cole

Self - customer service

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE SB 12 because it will criminalize performances in which people present as a gender that doesn't align with their sex unless it's at a private location only admitting people of 18 years of age or older. This includes non-sexual content, for example, drag artists are fully clothed and doing completely kid-appropriate things such as reading a storybook at a public library. Furthermore, the bill bans ANY performance in which a person dresses in clothes traditional to the opposite sex. Do we really want to be a state where performances of beloved childhood stories such as Mulan or Mrs. Doubtfire can only admit adults 18 or older?

The idea that cross dressing and trans people are inherently sexual and groom children is a lie created to incite hate towards people like me and my community and I'm already seeing the results of it. I'm being bullied by extremist conservatives, who often know nothing about trans people. For example, I'm a proud non-binary person. I have always felt different as a kid even though I never knew how to put the words to it. I often felt insecure presenting as a girl. I didn't fit in. I felt clumsy and uncomfortable. But while I often envied the boys, being one of them didn't seem right, either.

At the age of 22 I finally started embracing my identity as non-binary and I socially transitioned. For me, this included changing my pronouns, keeping my hair short, not wearing makeup, growing out my body hair, and dressing in whatever feels comfortable rather than trying to look at feminine and curvy as possible. I have never felt more confident in my skin! When I look in the mirror, I see me, not a picture of someone trying to be me. I also feel more comfortable in my role when interacting with people of different genders socially. I don't need to fit in with all the girls and I can act like a bro with the boys. I don't feel embarrassed anymore. I love who I am.

But being trans isn't all that I am. I love the beach! The squishy sand, the bubbles left over after the waves draw back, the wind slapping my face... that is pure happiness. I love poetry. I write to cope with difficult times but also to express my love towards my friends and crushes. And I always try to be there for my friends. I enjoy celebrating the good times with them while also helping them through hard times. Several of my trans friends have been abused or rejected by their families due to their gender identity. I do everything I can to help them get through these difficult and painful situations. And finally, I love my job. I work customer service and nothing makes me happier at work than making my customers and my coworkers smile or laugh. My job may seem unimportant to many, but I believe it still gives me a chance to make a difference in people's lives.

My existence is not a mere sexualized folly. I'm a person just like you are, and just like any other queer person. We deserve to express ourselves artistically just the same as anyone else.

Christina Sellers, Ms.

Self speech language pathologist

Westworth Village, TX

SB 12 targets small business owners with frivolous civil penalties for simply operating a venue where drag performances take place. Moreover, the bill would charge drag artists with a misdemeanor for performing in the presence of a minor - regardless of the content. I urge the committee not to advance SB 12 out of the State Affairs committee. Thank you.

Kathy Lux

Self/retired RN

Fredericksburg, TX

I am in favor of this bill. It is important to stop exposing children to the debauchery that is drag. It seems a shame that parents will actually parent and not attend these events but alas, until they decide to wear the mantel of parental responsibility, the state must step up and provide protections. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Angela Ross, Mrs
Myself
Dallas, TX

Drag performances in no way hurt children. Have you even been to one?? Good grief.
You know what hurts children? Guns. Let's do something about guns.

Jeanne King
Self, client support
Katy, TX

I oppose this bill. Drag is an art form, it is acting, it is performance. Drag performances are never sexually oriented when children are present.

Jennifer Mobbs
Self
Tyler, TX

I am asking for all Members to Support SB 12 by Hughes. Our Children need to be Children, they DO NOT need to be subject to "performances" of a sexual nature by "Drag Queens" as this bill has been dubbed. We need to protect our children and the Committee can do that right here, right now by Supporting SB 12! Thank You.

Betsy Reeder
None
Woodway, TX

It seems like you should have more important REAL issues to address than a Drag performance.
Quite wasting time and do business that will make a difference.
Votr this bill.

Sara Fredericks
Self
Dallas, TX

Drag queens and drag shows don't hurt children. Guns hurt children.

Allisson Chester
self
Dallas, TX

I am-opposed to SB 12 Drag performer and drag performances do not hurt our communities or our children. Guns hurt children.

Mike Jackson
self - retired
Lufkin, TX

I strongly support S12. This degeneracy needs to stop. I urge the committee members in the name of all that is good to pass this bill out of committee.

Bruce Burton
Citizen
Austin, TX

I am asking to Vote "For" SB 12

Thank you

Darin Cote
self - public servant
Weatherford, TX

The Texas Legislature should be spending the limited time it has in session passing legislation that will benefit all Texans. Instead, SB 12 targets small business owners with frivolous civil penalties for simply operating a venue where drag performances take place. Moreover, the bill would charge drag artists with a misdemeanor for performing in the presence of a minor - regardless of the content. I urge the committee not to advance SB 12 out of the State Affairs committee. Thank you.

Marlow Newton
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I am in support of this bill, as it is critical to protecting our innocent children. I do not understand how any society believes that this type of performance is for 100% of the public's consumption. These types of performances should be restricted to indoor facilities for adults only. These types of performances to innocent children is confusing and should not be used to desensitize our children in believing this is okay. I have witnessed videos of performances in schools that are highly sexual with dances that are similar to those in a strip bar. This is completely unacceptable for ages 18 or 21 and younger. I urge the Senate to pass this bill.

Allison Craig, Dr.
self, college faculty member
Fort Worth, TX

The Texas Legislature should be spending the limited time it has in session passing legislation that will benefit all Texans. Instead, SB 12 targets small business owners with frivolous civil penalties for simply operating a venue where drag performances take place. Moreover, the bill would charge drag artists with a misdemeanor for performing in the presence of a minor - regardless of the content. I urge the committee not to advance SB 12 out of the State Affairs committee. Thank you.

Fernando Albornoz
self
Beetram, TX
Honorable Members,

I am writing in support of SB 12 and urge all members of the Committee to enthusiastically support this bill and to vote it out favorably.

The sexualization of children, as is done by drag-queen shows, is an evil without precedent in modern civilization. It must be made illegal, with severe punishment for perpetrators.

Democrats and Republicans must join in bringing this abomination to a swift end. The innocence of a child is sacred and must be protected.

I respectfully urge the Members of this Committee to approve SB 12.

Fernando Albornoz

Amy De Rosa
Self
Harker Heights, TX
Support

Brad Logan
self - small business owner
Austin, TX

Please support SB 12. Children should be protected from sexually oriented performances. Those types of performances serve no other purpose.

Terri Hall, Legislative Liaison
We the People - Liberty in Action
Kerrville, TX

Please pass this bill out of committee. We support it 100%. Protect kids!

Donald Baker
self
Killeen, TX

I support this common sense bill

Roger Hall
self
Ingram, TX

This should be a no-brainer... stop doing anything that places children in any sexual situations. Protect their innocence! We do not need this sort of debauchery in public either. Stop it now!

Tim Kane
self; retired
Tyler, TX

I strongly support this bill to ban "drag queen" shows in the presence of children.

susan Lucas
self retired
BRYAN, TX

Please vote ASAP in support of this bill and out of committee.

Rebekah Adams
Myself
MCKINNEY, TX

As a conservative Texas mom, public school teacher, and concerned citizen, I ask you to please pass this bill out of committee for a vote on the Senate floor. Children have NO business being at sexually oriented events or venues. This is common sense. Put the groomers on notice, NOT in TEXAS.

Richie Grant
Self
Texarkana, TX

I grew up being dragged to nudist camps as a child. My parents were progressive and took us and I lived in a topless bar as a teenager. These and many other horrific appearances traumatized all 5 children of my parents. Each of us have struggled to maintain proper mental health. These things have only gotten worse in that 50 year process. This was back in the late sixties and early seventies that this happened to us. It is grooming pure and simple and children should not be subjected to this perverted sexuality. Please do not play games with these children show your integrity and get this bill passed.

Dale Huls

Bowie County Patriots

De Kalb, TX

I support this legislation. There is no valid reason that children should be subjected to sexual performances in any venue. In another time not too long ago that would be considered child abuse.

Kimberly Galland

Self/CPA

Bryan, TX

I urge you to vote YES on this bill to protect innocent children. I have 10 grandchildren and I want them to grow up with a healthy attitude regarding their bodies and sexuality. These shows do nothing but corrupt the minds of innocent children and should be criminal.

Scott Stebbins

Marion County Republican Chairman

Jefferson, TX

Please vote for SB 12.

Amanda Hollis

Self, professional musician and theater performer

Dallas, TX

Drag queens are not a threat to children or anyone else, but guns are. Bryan Slaton and DJT are sexual predators and Dan Patrick is consistently under federal indictment. These are MUCH greater threats than drag queens. If you don't like drag shows, don't go to one. If you don't like drag queens, don't be one. Otherwise, leave them alone and give them the freedom to pursue their life, liberty and happiness.

Quynh-Huong Nguyen

Woori Juntos

Houston, TX

My name is Quynh-Huong Nguyen, I am the Senior Communications Associate for Woori Juntos.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 12 by Senator Hughes, which seeks to restrict certain sexually oriented performances on public property, on the premises of a commercial enterprise, or in the presence of a child. This bill is harmful, discriminatory, and undermines the rights and dignity of sex workers and other marginalized communities.

Firstly, this bill would disproportionately impact sex workers, who are already marginalized and vulnerable due to stigma, discrimination, and lack of legal protection. Research has shown that criminalization of sex work increases violence, exploitation, and discrimination against sex workers, particularly those who are trans, non-binary, and people of color (Plummer et al., 2018). By limiting their ability to perform and express themselves, this bill would further marginalize and stigmatize them, and could push them into unsafe working conditions, which could increase the risk of exploitation and violence.

Secondly, this bill would also harm LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly young people, who may be struggling to come to terms with their sexuality and gender identity. By limiting their access to public spaces and events where they can express themselves, this bill could exacerbate feelings of isolation and shame, and ultimately harm their mental health and wellbeing. Research has shown that LGBTQ+ youth face higher rates of mental health issues, suicide, and homelessness, due to stigma and discrimination (Marshal et al., 2011).

Thirdly, this bill reinforces the criminalization of marginalized communities, particularly communities of color, who are already disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system. Research shows that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are more likely to be arrested, convicted, and incarcerated for sex work-related offenses, despite evidence that criminalization does not reduce harm, but rather exacerbates it (Murray et al., 2020; Brewer et al., 2018). By creating a criminal offense for certain types of sexually oriented performances, this bill could result in increased policing, surveillance, and incarceration, further entrenching the systemic racism and oppression that underpins the criminal justice system.

Finally, this bill reflects the harmful and misguided approach of the criminal justice system, which relies on punishment and control rather than healing and transformation. Research has shown that criminalization of marginalized communities, such as sex workers and LGBTQ+ individuals, is ineffective in reducing harm and instead perpetuates systemic oppression and violence (Fergusson et al., 2017). We need solutions that address the root causes of harm, such as poverty, racism, and patriarchy, rather than punish the symptoms.

Therefore, I urge you to reject SB 12 and instead support policies that respect the agency, autonomy, and diversity of all people.

Dorothy Smith, Legislative Chair

NCRW

Nacogdoches, TX

We must protect our children. Please immediately and urgently pass this out of committee. Thank you for your service.

Kenneth Blundell

Self

Tyler, TX

I strongly support not having any sexual performances including Drag Queen readings performed in front of our kids. As a teacher and parent I am appalled that this matter even has to be legislated. Thanks for your support. I will be watching this bill closely.

JUDY BEARD

Self

Tyler, TX

No child should be subjected to such sexually oriented performances of any sort. The children need to keep their child like innocence and just be children. It is a sad day when such a bill as this one has to be made into a law. Any parent that allows their child to be involved in any way with such despicable actions should be arrested.

Kellie Black

Republican Party of Texas

Colleyville, TX

I strongly Support SB12!!

Q Coleman

The Event Network

Plano, TX

PLEASE PASS

Dawn Guerriero

self

Dallas, TX

Our children need to be protected above all else. It is your job as elected officials to protect the welfare of the children in our state

Brandon Burden, Pastor

North Texas Conservatives

Melissa, TX

Please vote yes on SB 12. Our children should not be subjected to sexually-oriented performances on public property. This is child abuse, and we should not support child abuse with taxpayer dollars! Support SB 12!

Sharon Jones

self/business owner

The Colony, TX

Please pass SB12 and SB29!

Ever Hayward

self, healthcare worker

Austin, TX

I am writing to you on my own behalf to ask you to oppose SB 12. This is a punitive, confusing, unnecessary, and truly baffling bill. Stop creating more laws that don't need to exist, solely to score "culture war" points and punish vulnerable Texans. Not only does this bill attack my community, but it also makes the Texas legislature a national laughing stock, and is a supreme misuse of government time and money. I'm a taxpayer, a Texan, a part of your community, and I am angry at how much of our very limited legislative time has already been spent on this garbage. If passed into law, this would only add to confusion, cost additional taxpayer money while it got challenged in courts, and make navigating our world even more annoying, tiring, and expensive. I am pleading with you not to waste more time by trying to advance this nonsense, meaningless, mean, and logic-defying bill. Texans have real problems; drag is not one of them.

Doug Salisbury

Self

Dallas, TX

I'm much more worried about my daughter being shot at school or at the mall than I am she seeing a man dressed as a woman. And what happened to parental rights? Y'all seemed concerned about that when it comes to masks and education; why not on this issue? Hypocrites

Virginia Mohlere

Self, editor

Spring, TX

I do not support SB12. This is a manufactured issue and part of targeted harassment of LBGTQ Texans. These vulnerable communities deserve better treatment than to be turned into the targets of a circus of fear and misinformation. SB12 should not pass.

Linda Ricks

Self

Midlothian, TX

Dear Committee Members, please vote SB 29 out of committee and vote "yes" for this important bill. We must prevent government overreach from happening again for ANY reason, not just Covid.

Thank you,

Linda Ricks

Gloria Anstine, Miss

Self/Texas Nationalist Movement

Pasadena, TX

This 70 year old lady retired merchant marine Texan wants to Vote on HB3596 this November 2023. I don't want my grandkids and great grandkids living in a socialist country.

Jeffrey Garlish

Self

Dallas, TX

In the wake of yet another GOP-enabled shooting, the GOP continues to ignore the repeated murders of children by right-wing extremists and instead focus on hurting marginalized people such as the LGBTQ community. How many of our kids have been murdered by drag performers? Zero. If the Texas GOP is incapable of resisting the urge to violently masturbate in public at the mere sight of a man in drag then that is there problem. Texas GOP members do not have the right to act like this is a problem the rest of us face.

Call this what it is - a blatant attack on LGBTQ people in order to blame anyone but themselves for the problems Texans face. History shows us that governance based on lies and conspiracy theories never ends well, particularly when those lies and conspiracy theories are directed towards a vulnerable minority.

The Texas GOP needs to stop projecting their sexual frustrations on others and attacking our free speech and should focus on problems that actually affect Texans - continued right-wing violence, the failing power grid, lack of access to healthcare of any kind, among others.

I was taught that talk is cheap and that actions speak louder than words. While the Texas GOP focuses on book-burning and stripping free-speech rights, they simultaneously blame "mental health" for the continued violence perpetuated by right-wing ideologues. In the same breath, they'll then cut funding to mental healthcare services. The only conclusion I can draw from this is that the Texas GOP either hates living children or loves dead ones. You do not get to claim you are protecting children while actively enabling those who would do them harm. So which is it, Texas GOP? Does the idea of yet more children's corpses excite you so much that you're willing to do everything possible to create more?

The #1 cause of child mortality in this country and in our state is firearm violence. Not drag shows, not "sexually explicit" (read: containing a gay person) books, but firearms. If the GOP seriously thought "sexually explicit" material isn't appropriate for children, they would ban the Bible from all institutions for its depictions of incest (Genesis 19:30-38) and other sexually explicit content such as Ezekiel 23:20 (There she lusted after her lovers, whose genitals were like those of donkeys and whose emission was like that of horses.)

But no, as we all know this is a bad-faith attempt from GOP legislators to legitimize their whacko conspiracy theories and silence marginalized voices. Disgusting. Y'all means all, and the Texas GOP does not represent me or the Texas I've spent my entire life in.

I am against this blatant attack on LGBTQ people and free speech and will do my best to make sure anyone who votes for this will be remembered throughout history for their hatred and bigotry.

Matthew Rigney

Self

Dallas, TX

Quit wasting your time and taxpayer money on culture war bullshit, and do something useful.

Megan Lawton

Self - Project Manager

Northlake, TX

There were 84 Texans killed in mass shootings last year. Instead of making any attempt to actually protect Texans, Hughes is busy doing mental gymnastics to claim drag queens are the danger to our children. There is nothing sexual about a drag show performance. This bill not only targets the LGBTQ+ community, it removes the choice of private businesses who choose to support a valid and safe form of entertainment. I do not support this legislation.

Fuck Ferguson

your mothers would be ashamed of you

Houston, TX

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE TWO LITTLE GIRLS WHO WERE KILLED IN ALLEN??? THEY WERE SISTERS AND NOW THEY'RE DEAD ALL BECAUSE THE NRA LINES YOUR POCKETS. THEIR BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS YOU FUCKING COWARDS. Y'ALL ARE WORRIED MORE ABOUT DRAG SHOWS WHEN CHILDREN ARE DEAD???????? THIS BILL IS FUCKING STUPID. DRAG QUEENS ARE BASICALLY CLOWNS - THEY PUT ON WIGS AND MAKEUP AND COLORFUL COSTUMES TO GO ON STAGE AND MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH. YOURE AFRAID OF CLOWNS BUT NOT THE DEADLY SHOOTINGS THAT ARE RAMPANT IN THE STATE OF TEXAS?????? A SELF PROCLAIMED NEO-NAZI KILLED 6 PEOPLE BUT HEAVEN FORBID A CHILD SEES SOMEONE IN A WIG!!!!!! THAT WOULD BE INDECENT!!!! THIS IS BULLSHIT YOU FUCKHEADS. YOU JUST CARE ABOUT KEEPING YOUR BASE MAD AT SOMETHING SO THEY WON'T SEE HOW FUCKING STUPID YOU ARE!!!!

Anna Bartosh

self

San Angelo, TX

Please pass SB 12 out of Committee.

Thank you!

Anna Bartosh

Linda Ricks

Self

Midlothian, TX

Dear Committee Members, please move SB 12 out of committee and to the floor for a "yes" vote. Children have no business being subjected to sexually oriented performances. They deserve to be "children" who are protected and nurtured through childhood. This should be a bipartisan issue. I'm sure both parties want children protected.

Thank you,

Linda Ricks

Julie Zvara

Julie Zvara - Precinct Chair 4126

DALLAS, TX

Never in my lifetime did I think our country would be in a place where legislation needs to be passed to protect our innocent children from sexually oriented performances but here we are. I can't think of one reason that any individual would not support SB 12 moving out of committee. Please support our children and do the right thing. Thank you.

Thomas Lawton

Self / Engineer

Northlake, TX

This is a colossal waste of time and money. Quit introducing bigoted and hate-filled bills. Anyone who votes for this should be ashamed of themselves and their upbringing.

Michael Coleman

I speak for myself.

New Braunfels, TX

Mass shooting by an actual neo-Nazi leaves 8 Texans dead.

Title 42 expires in 2 days and Republicans refuse to lift a finger to work on immigration reform.

Electric grid remains on the verge of collapse. Water infrastructure is about to go as well.

Healthcare still inaccessible. Insane healthcare and mental healthcare costs.

Texas Republicans: Let's focus on drag shows and rounding up immigrants (the exact same things the Allen shooter wrote in his journal about). You can't write a more anti-life platform. You should all be ashamed of yourselves. You are not Christians. You do not care about Jesus, or God. Only yourselves. Signed: someone born in Texas in 1984 and has lived here most of his life, under GOP control, and has seen nothing but decay and corruption occur.

Dennis Anderson

Self

Lago Vista, TX

Our children are being killed and our power grip is barely hanging on. Property taxes are out of control. Drags shows should be last on your list if at all. Explain how a drag queen reading a book is a sexually oriented performance. This is simply marginalizing a group of people you don't like. Ban assault rifles!

Lisa Atkinson

self

Cypress, TX

In no uncertain terms should sexually oriented performances, literature or any other deviant behavior be allowed in the presence of a child (pre-k thru 12 grades). Sexually oriented activities have no place with child attendance.

Hugh Soape, Mr.

All Texans !!!

Troup, TX

Pass SB-12 !!!

No child need the brainwashing tactics of "Drag Queen, sex orientation, abuse or any sexual orientation activity in our schools, public libraries or any other places in our society !!!

BRAD MORRIS

Self Management Consultant

Frisco, TX

This bill is a complete waste of time and tax dollars.

You need to be worried about the sexual predators in your own GOP ranks grooming under 21 females for their own sexual satisfaction.

No child has ever been sexually assaulted by a drag queen. Period.

However the number of children sexually assaulted by religious people in roles of authority is innumerable.

FIX THE GRID

REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES

FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION

EXPAND MEDICAID

Katharine Riedinger

self

Double Oak, TX

Drag performance itself is not a sexual performance. That you equate it as such speaks more about YOUR predilection than the actual performers.

As we mourn even more children slaughtered in this state, focus on actual issues that will keep children safe, not a dress-up show.

David Cantrell

Self

Murchison, TX

Please support this bill to protect our children's innocence

Cynthia Ramain

Self

Austin, TX

The fact that we have to even present a Bill for these lewd acts being performed in front of innocent children is a sad state of affairs in Texas. Our founding fathers would be horrified at this radical nonsense. Our children are under attack from every which way and it needs to stop immediately. Please do the right thing and pass HB 12 for the safety and security of our most innocent. We are 'One Nation Under God'...and He is watching.

Pam Sohan

Self/Mom

New Braunfels, TX

As a Texas resident, I urge you to vote against this bill. Drag is an art form. It doesn't harm anyone. No one is forcing anyone, adults or children to attend a drag show. There was a drag show in my town the other day. No one died. But there was a shooting in Allen, TX at a mall.

Dave Benzel

Self AND Wife

Gilmer, TX

Hi - We REALLY need for all good folks to STEP UP and -

VOTE YES ON SB12

PROTECTING kids from creepy Child Groomers and Sexualizers requires YOUR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT.

Thanks - Dave and Suzy

Ruth Potts

N Tx Conservatives and myself

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support this bill to keep children from being exposed to drag shows. Let the children have a childhood free of sexual explicit performances and sexual grooming. This is not progress this is immoral. I stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. I repeat I strongly support SB 12 by Hughes!

Amanda Segovia
Self/consulting
San Antonio, TX

When I was five and my straight male family member molested me, he was not in drag.
When I was 8 and my straight male family member molested me, he was not in drag. The sheriff said that since he didn't penetrate me that I would be fine. I am almost 50 and still cannot sleep without a pillow clutched to my chest to protect myself.
When I was 13 and my parents' straight male employer molested me, he was not in drag.
When the straight male uvalde shooter killed 19 innocent children and 2 teachers, he was not in drag.
When the straight male allen shooter killed 8 people shopping in a mail, he was not in drag.
When straight male bryan Slaton plied his underage aide with so much alcohol she couldn't consent to sex, he wasn't in drag.
When a straight male driver plowed through a crowd of asylum seekers and killed 8 innocent people, he wasn't in drag.

Drag is not dangerous. LGBTQ people are not harmful. It is cruel and exploitative to attack a marginalized community rather than govern and provide solutions for all citizens, not just a fringe minority. Texas has always been a state big enough for everyone but bigoted and unconstitutional laws like this do nothing but harm and divide us. We have real problems here that require real solutions. Please focus on those and leave this beautiful and resilient community out of your performative culture wars.

Sara Virdell
Self
Brady, TX

I support this bill! It should be a crime to perform sexually oriented performances anywhere near a child.

Stephanie Kotara
Self
Austin, TX

I support SB12. Please restrict sexual content in front of minors.

Gail Capps
Self and Dallas Eagle Forum
Dallas, TX

Please support the passage of this important legislation.

Robert Wilson
HR by the Hour
Tyler, TX

Stops sexually oriented performances in the presence of a child. This is an abomination and pure evil. Our kids deserve better.

Marc Pitts
Self - Financial Service
Lindale, TX

I strongly support SB 12! Texas must protect children from highly inappropriate performances! Please pass the bill out of committee with a favorable report.

Laura Proske
self home maker
Spring, TX

I support SB 12. Drag queen performances must remain where they belong, in night pubs where adults only are admitted. Those performances do not belong where children are present because they don't understand them. Those men having a caricaturesque make up and women clothes are making fun of womanhood and they are diminishing the meaning and importance of womanhood in our society. Stop drag queens performances in schools and public libraries

Marilyn Harris
Self-Retired
Sanger, TX

SB 12 RESTRICT sexually oriented performance by moving this bill on. Texans want this bill passed!

Thank you!
Danny & Marilyn Harris

Jerry Rubli
Self
Spring, TX

This bill, if made into a law, would stop sexually oriented performances in the presence of a child, our most precious gift. Please vote this out of committee.

mark kitchens
-- self --
Athens, TX

I support this, no sexually oriented performances in front of children!

Donna McCright
Self
The Colony, TX

Thank you for presenting SB 12. And I support your efforts

Cathy Stroud, Mrs.
Myself
Gainesville, TX

The passing of this bill is an urgent matter to protect Texas kids. They are our future! Please pass! Praying for you!

Monica McCrory
Rep Precinct 396 Chair
Georgetown, TX

Children are our most precious hope for a better tomorrow. If you pollute their minds with garbage by exposing them to inappropriate, vulgar, sexual performances, you will reap a very dark and demented future. This is an attack on our fundamental Christian beliefs and values. Knock it off and kick it out of respectable society.

James Ransdell

Self

Seguin, TX

We need to protect our kids, please vote to pass this bill. We need to stop sexually oriented performances in the presence of our kids.

Catherine Viens, Mrs.

self

College Station, TX

Please protect children from the actions described in this bill which coincidentally are the same as groomer's tactics. These performances have no place on public property or in the presence of children. Please pass this out of committee as soon as possible; I SUPPORT SB 12

Leslie Vazquez

Self

Humble, TX

I strongly oppose SB 12. Drag in its essence is not sexual. It does not deserve to be a criminal offense. How about we take a look into real issues like the power grid, vigilantes, and climate change. I am against SB 12.

Jennifer Woodall

Ector County Republican Party Precinct Chair 101

Odessa, TX

Please vote yes for this bill. Such performances are not appropriate nor age appropriate for our children. It is our duty to protect them.

Long Nguyen

Self - Software Designer

McKinney, TX

While I'm no fan of drag shows, particularly those that target children, this bill as written is not only a 1st Amendment violation, but also written in ways that can prohibit non drag show performances that have artistic merit. An example is a law that would prohibit nude displays can be used to prohibit ancient artwork, such as the statue of David. Another example, directly relating to this bill, is that actors wearing non-gender conforming wardrobes are common in plays and other artistic, non-pornographic displays and shows.

While the intention of protecting children is worthy, this implementation is flawed and an example of government overreach. There are not enough 1st Amendment safeguards in place. A better solution needs to be found, or this bill needs to be rewritten in a way that offers more 1st Amendment protection so that it can't be abused.

Dewayne Holloway

Self

Victoria, TX

As a conservative voter I voted for Congressman that said they supported the same values that I do. I find it hard to believe that Texas has yet to pass a bill that protects children from these groomers. I suggest these Elected Officials start representing the voters that put them in office.

Jody Quimby
Self Retired
Bryan, TX

I strongly support SB 12 and cannot imagine any sane adult would oppose this bill. The insanity of exposing children to sexually oriented performances can only be justified with a warped and demented view of humanity. Please support SB 12 and vote it out of committee immediately.

Allison Winter
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I would like to officially register my position FOR SB 12. Thank you for supporting SB 12.

William B McWhorter
Self
Longview TX, TX

I respectfully urge favorable consideration and passage for this bill. It will be another step in the right direction to protect Texas children, to ensure that businesses, individuals, and anyone else who would perform or give a platform for these incredibly inappropriate shows are held accountable. We have to keep Texas children safe and away from these terrible acts of debauchery, and this bill can make that a reality. Thank you for your consideration and support, and I look forward to this bill being passed.

Debbie Pepin
True TX Project
Austin, TX

Children are children - they deserve to grow up in a safe world without more confusion than they have already! NO sexually oriented performances in their presence, period. Once they are an adult they can make their own choices. Do what is right for kids - for Texas - for our great country.

Sandra King
Self
Caldwell, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Chris Donofrio

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I strongly oppose SB 12.

I demand you let it die in committee.

It follows the current Republican playbook: Create a non-existent moral panic, use it to create fear among people, attack anyone or anything that is/supports this boogeyman, offer an easy solution.

Even if it violates existing law, is unconstitutional, or causes harm.

SB 12's Analysis defines the non-existent moral panic:

"A recent cultural trend has been for drag shows to be performed in venues generally accessible to the public, including children. These shows often contain sexually explicit performances and music."

The panic's justification is a lie. Drag events, like reading books to children, clearly do not contain "sexually explicit performances and music."

You know this. The lie creates disgust and fear.

A solution must be quickly enacted to 'protect the children.'

That solution is found in SB 12, with an amendment to the Penal Code: T9, C43, ScB. The amendment, Sec 43.28 (p3 L9 - P4 L16), targets all drag events where children could be present with a creative, non-vetted, definition of a "Sexually oriented performance."

(2) (a) (ii) "a male performer exhibiting as a female, or a female performer exhibiting as a male, who uses clothing, makeup, or other similar physical markers and who sings, lip syncs, dances, or otherwise performs before an audience."

There is nothing concerning anything sexual.

SB 12 contradicts/violates existing Texas law.

1) in Penal Code T9, C43, ScB: Obscenity. It contravenes the following definitions (Sec 43.21):

(a) (1) "Obscene" means material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex.

(a) (3) "Performance" means a play, motion picture, dance, or other exhibition performed before an audience.

(a) (4) "Patently offensive" means so offensive on its face as to affront current community standards of decency.

2) Allows the state to dictate what the Family Code holds parents responsible for (T1, StB, C151). This places all parents in jeopardy of breaking the FC's superseding law.

The Senate public hearing for SB 12 was telling.

Support: 22 (8 from Christian faith groups, 2 Republican Party of TX, and 12 self).

Opposed: 964 (38 representing multiple organizations and 926 self).

Religious groups supporting SB 12 are far-right, working to impose their version of Christianity upon everyone, and remove any civil rights that prevent this.

Opposing SB 12 are civil rights organizations, including ACLU TX, Equality Alliance, and Human Rights Campaign.

964 opposing this bill clearly defines "current community standard of decency." Drag events are decent.

SB 12 is an attempt to impose an extreme, right-wing Christian view on all of us. This is truly obscene.

That such obscenity could be placed into the Penal Code mostly dealing with child sexual exploitation disgusts me.

Respectfully,

Chris J. Donofrio

David Welch, Rev.
Texas Pastor Council
Houston, TX

The Drag Queen dress, behavior, lifestyle and culture have historically always been directly linked with Sexually Oriented Businesses, restricted properly to adults. "Drag Queens" and "Drag Shows" are universally sexually explicit even if in "simulated" form, as well as expressly mocking and degrading women. We may have to tolerate this lifestyle in places restricted to adults, yet it clearly should be banned on all public property and commercial property publicly accessible to children. This is not complicated for any person with a shred of desire to protect the souls, minds and bodies of children from sexual or other forms of exploitation. On behalf of our pastors and congregations all over Texas, we urge a "FOR" vote on SB 12.

Elise Turner
self
Dallas, TX
I am in favor of SB 12

Brigget Brame
self
Georgetown, TX

My family and friends STRONGLY SUPPORT this Bill which will PREVENT DRAG QUEEN STORY HOUR in the presence of minors on any public property.

Carol DeLynn Satterwhite
Self
Canyon Lake, TX
Please for this bill.

Donna Coppededge
Self, retired teacher
Pflugerville, TX

If you don't want to see a drag show, then don't! It is ridiculous that we are wasting time on something so inconsequential as this when we have children dying from gun violence. If you claim you want "parent choice" in education, it should also grant anyone the right to attend a drag show. Could be a teachable moment! Let's spend our time on issues that truly matter.

Cynthia Ridgeway, LBSW
self
Diana, TX

I support this Bill. Public property should NOT be used for sexually oriented performances, displays of nudity, or other lewd acts, or displays, nor should any private business allow such events in the presence of minor children. Our children's natural modesty should be protected until they reach adulthood.

Margaux Meier
Self
Elgin, TX

Please protect children from inappropriate adult events. I have personally attended a "family friendly" all ages drag show in Austin, and was appalled by the content. A man dancing around a room full of kids with prosthetic breasts whilst two others insinuate sexual acts is obscene and traumatizing. No parent with their children's best interests in mind would bring them to these shows. Please restrict them to adults only.

Rowan Cardosa

Self

The Colony, TX

I oppose SB 12. The bill's authors already consider dressing outside of a narrow view of what's acceptable to be "in the prurient interest." this would absolutely kill the performing arts, as well as events such as festivals and fan conventions.

As written, it is overly broad and extremely dangerous to both artistic expression and the Texas economy. Other states have reworked their drag ban bills into general nudity bans to avoid this, but it appears that Texas would prefer to shoot itself in the foot.

ALEX ROBINSON

self, social worker

Austin, TX

Please Pass this bill!

Cassandra Briggs

Self - Account Setup Specialist

Leander, TX

Children should not be subjected to drag shows. Drag shows involve dressing up as women, a fetish, and performing in a sexually suggestive nature. This is adult entertainment and should stay as such. Drag shows should be limited to 18+ at the very least, if not 21+. Kids should be kids.

Patricia Larsen, Retired Grandmother of 11 grandchildren

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

I support the banning of all sexually oriented performances before children as stated in the above bill. These performances are totally unacceptable, immoral and detrimental to the development of good mental health of children.

Brian Fitzgerald

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

Please pass this bill out of committee.

Darla Ingram

self - "concerned grandparent"

Amarillo, TX

Please pass SB 12 out of committee!!

Sharon Tryon, Mrs

Self

Waxahachie, TX

No child should have to go through anything sexual they should be allowed to be children. There should be no sexually oriented performances in front of anybody under the age of 18. Help the already confuse children and vote yes for this bill.

Jennifer Ozuna

Self-ex teacher/math tutor/mother

Lakeway, TX

This should be treated like strip club or other over 18 adult entertainment.

Ian McKee, Mr.

Self

Alvin, TX

Please support SB12

Elizabeth Rivera

Self - Retired

Burleson, TX

As a resident of Texas, I strongly support this bill SB 12. Thank you.

Bonnie Walters

Self

Longview, TX

For a child to be exposed to sexually oriented performances is child abuse and very harmful to children and our entire society. It should be a criminal offense. Please support SB 12.

Steph Owens

Self

Kingwood, TX

This is a common sense law. Children should not be exposed to sexually explicit shows. I hope Texas joins the other states that are enacting this common sense legislation.

Cheryl Pantell

Self/homemaker

Flower Mound, TX

Please protect the children of this state by making age requirements on sexual performances. No child should have someone's genitalia paraded around in front of them. Children shouldn't be exposed to sexually oriented performances.

Wanda Whitney, Mrs

self retired

Georgetown, TX

Children should not be subjected to sexual matters. Let them be children and enjoy the little time they have as children. Drag Queens, commercial enterprises dealing with sex, and other sexual matters including books, pamphlets, teachers trying to teach about sex should be outside the children's daily life. Create a criminal or civil penalty for the offense and assure that it is equally used throughout the land.

Cameron Norris

Self/Certified Residential Appraiser

Longview, TX

As a father to a 9 year old, I strongly support this bill! For freedom!

Jessica Norris

Self/Medical Assistant

Longview, TX

As a mother to a 9 year old, I highly support this bill! Save our country!

Jonathan Reynolds

Self Retired

Buchanan Dam, TX

Dear House State Affairs Committee,

Pass SB-12 out of committee quickly. It is time to stop sexually oriented performances anytime on public property, especially in schools. Nobody, especially children, should have to be subjected to this stuff anytime in public. Drag shows and other explicit displays in front of the public do nothing more than demonstrate how degenerated and outright trashy we have allowed Texas and American public society to become. God sees this. Correcting this is way overdue. Do the only right thing for Texas and our children by overwhelmingly passing SB-12 out of Committee quickly. Thank you for your timely and conscientious attention in this matter.

Respectfully,

A Concerned Llano County Conservative Voter

Deborah Riser

Self Customer Service

New Braunfels, TX

Let there be NO sexually oriented performances in the presence of children

Stella and Ted Barrow

self-retired - both of us

JEFFERSON, TX

My husband and I want it known that we support this bill as well as SB162.

Cynthia Caton, Mrs.

Self

Richardson, TX

While it is absurd that we need to legislate something like protecting children from perverts, here we are. Please pass SB 12 and criminalize this “entertainment” where children are exposed to abuse, grooming and perversion.

How can you even hesitate?

Michael Short

Self

Brookeland, TX

Please pass SB12 out of Committee. Stops sexually oriented performances in the presence of a child.

Marilyn Batten

self

Spicewood, TX

I cannot believe that we have come to this. We cannot allow this vulgar behavior to continue and especially on public property. Allowing this in the presence of a child is unacceptable. It should be a criminal offense.

Bettie Gray

self/customer service

WAXAHACHIE, TX

Please pass SB 12. Personally, I think ALL sexually oriented performances on public property and on the premises of a commercial enterprise should be illegal; indecent behavior in a public place. Children/minors should not be exposed to sexually oriented performances of any kind, including drag shows. They are very impressionable and what they experience in these type of situations can have lasting negative effects. Yes, it should be a criminal offense for adults to display sexual provocative behavior in the presence of minors.

Alexandru Ardel

self

Austin, TX

I express my very strong support for SB 12.

Please vote YES

Katherine Leach

Self/Domestic Engineer

McKinney, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House State Affairs Committee,

Sexually oriented performances, however subtle or evident, should NEVER be permitted to take place in the company of children.

It is no surprise what is happening around the State of Texas with regards to grown men dressed up in "drag" pretending to be women and moving their bodies in provocative and sexual ways in front of minors and small children. Not only does this kind of adult behavior place children in a position of confusion, it also goes well beyond the limit of creative performance, and quickly enters into the realm of inappropriate and dangerous. I use the word dangerous because children witnessing this type of behavior from an adult grossly minimizes the boundaries that must exist between an adult and a child who are unknown to each other. When an adult performs in front of a child in a sexual or provocative way, these boundary lines become very blurred or disappear altogether. This now causes the child's well-being to be at risk. Clear boundaries MUST BE enforced in order to ensure the child remains in a position of safety and security; whether it be physically, emotionally, mentally, or sexually. Safe boundaries for children can be implemented and enforced through your endorsement of SB 12. I strongly urge each of you to do so.

Texas children are counting on you to help defend them, their mental health, future, and overall well-being. Please add your support to SB 12 without any reservation.

Thank you for your consideration in this regard,

Katherine Leach

Michael Prillaman
Self / Real Estate Salesperson
Taylor, TX

I wish to write today in favor of SB 12. Thirty years ago, the situation comedy, "Seinfeld" had an episode where the character, George Costanza, was fired for having sex under his desk with another employee. When confronted about the matter by his employer, he replied, "was that wrong? should I not have done that?" Many of you will remember that episode. It was comic because back then, society seemed to have some sort of understanding of right and wrong, even if Costanza pretended to plead his ignorance. In those times, we didn't necessarily need to make a bunch of laws like SB 12, because it was understood by society that you just didn't do certain things. It is truly regrettable that bad actors and/or morally bankrupt members of our society have worked diligently to smudge that clearly understood demarcation between black and white; right and wrong; to such a pivotal point where we must now step in and clearly state for the record things that used to be just understood. Albeit a pity, SB 12 is not an unreasonable piece of legislation. In the present time, it is also a necessary piece of legislation. Minors should not be allowed to be in the presence of sexually explicit performances of any kind. Be it a strip joint, a Christmas Parade [such as has recently happened right here in Taylor], or the local public library. Sexualizing our children must stop; and this begins by expeditiously passing this already engrossed bill from the Senate out of your committee, and on to the floor of the house. Our children are our future. We must protect them. For this reason I respectfully ask you to please VOTE YES to pass SB 12 favorably out Committee this Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Gaylyn DeVine
Self, Small Business Owner
Pearland, TX

I m strongly in favor of this bill as a small business owner and grandmother. We should not have to be concerned with this type of activity while out in public places. What people do in their own home is their business but when it overflows to public space and you have to explain to your 10 year old granddaughter this behavior, there is something seriously inherently wrong with wanting to do these performances in front of underage children. Please vote this out of committee and to the floor for a vote!

D.S. Zamora, Mrs.
Self - Retired
Houston, TX

I **OPPOSE** this bill.

House representatives need to stop passing bills authored by Bryan Hughes. He has no respect for the civil rights of Texans. The resulting lawsuits are terrible for the state budget.

If he doesn't like drag shows, he can simply choose not to attend them.

Janna Canard
Texas UU Justice Ministry
Fort Worth, TX

Please oppose SB 12. The Texas Legislature should be spending the limited time it has in session passing legislation that will benefit all Texans. Instead, SB 12 targets small business owners with frivolous civil penalties for simply operating a venue where drag performances take place. Moreover, the bill would charge drag artists with a misdemeanor for performing in the presence of a minor - regardless of the content. I urge the committee not to advance SB 12 out of the State Affairs committee. Thank you.

Mary Corbin
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote yes on this bill. I vehemently oppose the drag queen shows and reading hour to be in presence of a child at any public and private [retail] locations.

Michelle Hanson

Self

Lewisville, TX

Pls pass out of committee

Morgana Terry

Self

Waxahachie, TX

We MUST protect children from ALL sexual oriented subjects. As an adult who was assaulted by a family member as a child, a mother, a grandmother, I beg of you to please protect our children. There is NO reason a child should be exposed to any sexual oriented performance or subject. Anyone performer, anyone who takes a child to such an event, anyone involved in a child being exposed should be charged criminally. WE HAVE TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!!

Veronica Wilson

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

I am a Texan, a woman, a mother, and a voter. The insanity of allowing, the infinitesimally small mentally ill / emotionally disturbed group, the transgender movement, to gain access to children of any age must cease. Good and wholesome well-meaning people DO NOT WANT to parade naked and scantily clothed in front of children in a sexual manner. It is not art. It is child abuse. It is the sexual assault of a minor. It is pedophilia, as many infected with transgenderism, who are drag show performers, experience sexual gratification while in the act of performing in front of children. Ban such performances immediately and for all time in our Great State of Texas.

Steve Comer

Self, Field Services Technician

Hallsville, TX

"Drag queens" are an abomination (defilement, pollution, in a physical sense, or evil doctrines and practices, which are moral defilements, idols and idolatry) to the Lord: "...neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." (Deuteronomy 22:5b). Having public drag queen performances are therefore detrimental to public morals of *adults,* let alone children, whose malleable minds are vulnerable to wrong teachings. Parents are to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," not in the celebration of moral defilement and rebellion against God's created order.

John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Moral and religious citizens are NOT raised from drag queen stars. The fact that a bill like this has become necessary sounds a death knell against our Constitutional state! Children MUST be guarded against evil influences. Children are precious, priceless parts of our future and If some parents won't guard them against evil, then sadly we turn to the state to raise a hedge of protection about them.

It is assuredly in the vital public interest of the State of Texas to have moral, God-fearing citizens, for otherwise "the wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psalms 9:17 This is no less applicable to our state. To the extent that it lies within our power, we must take all necessary steps to protect Texas' future.

Proverbs 22:3 says, "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." I'm very appreciative that Sen. Hughes has foreseen this evil and is courageously taking bold steps to hide Texas from it.

Jessica Sitka

Self

Houston, TX

This comment is in support of SB 12 by B Hughes. It is critical to protect the hearts and minds of our children by not allowing sexually oriented drag (or any other) performances to take place in front of children. Children are to be protected by adults, not harmed. Performing sexual acts in front of them does harm to their health and development, both mentally and spiritually. Sex is designed by God as a gift to be celebrated explicitly in marriage between one man and one woman, not to grossly abuse and confuse children by displaying it in front of them. We must stop any adults that wish to sexualize our children! Furthermore, drag shows confuse children by causing them to question the concept of gender. There are only two genders, male and female, and that is an absolute. Performing adults dressed as their opposite gender are aiming to tear down this TRUTH. The tactic of the enemy we face is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. That tactic isn't to get people to murder, steal, or lie; it is to get them to question the Word of God. By getting children to question their gender, the enemy succeeds in getting a hold on the mind and heart of the child, and cause them to not accept the truth of God's loving word, thereby hindering them in becoming the person God created them to be and potentially separating them from God forever. We ourselves are also at risk of being eternally separated from God if we do not call out this evil and speak TRUTH over these evil forces our children are at risk of falling victim to. To those who are blind to the reasons for which this bill is so critical to pass today, I pray that you will come to know the truth, that you will turn from your wicked and twisted ways, and accept forgiveness for your wrong doing to move forward in His grace, and live in His goodness and peace.

Michael Switzer

Self, retail shift lead

Deer Park, TX

Wtf is wrong with y'all? I thought Texans believed in freedom and live and let live? Government busy bodies. Nonsense. Maybe you should worry about keeping the power on this summer instead?

Robyn Bain

Self

Spring, TX

Preserving the dignity and innocence of childhood should be at the forefront of everyone's mind. By allowing age limits to drag shows, that is an important step to preserving childhood. I've seen nudity, vulgar moves, and frankly shows that make ME uncomfortable and I'm an adult! Children do not have the capacity to understand or work thru experiences completely because they are not fully developed. I cannot imagine the long term hurt and confusion allowing anything to go for children. Someone needs to stop and consider the future for our children. We can respect others but it doesn't come at the price of our children- our future generation.

norma Garcia

moms for liberty

corpus christi, TX

stop sexualizing our children. No drag shows

Alexis Menendez
Self
Austin, TX

This legislation is overly broad and vague, as well as harmful and stigmatizing to the LGBTQ+ community. It is disguised as an attempt to protect children from sexual predators, but in reality is a direct attack on the queer community.

There is nothing wrong or immoral about a man or woman in drag. There is nothing inherently sexual about a man or a woman in drag. I agree that some shows (drag or not) are not appropriate for children, but being a drag performer does not automatically mean they are behaving in a sexual manner. Drag isn't about sex.

Additionally, the bill is far to vague. I will quote Callie Butcher when she recently spoke about the bill, "When you don't have clear guidelines on what is criminal, what is criminal activity, it can be difficult and it's actually unconstitutional for you to have a criminal law that has unclear bounds like that."

This bill is harmful, stigmatizing, and unconstitutional. I urge you, please do not pass this.

Katie Kizer
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. There is nothing inherently sexual about drag. This doesn't protect kids, it hurts people. This bill is overly broad and bad and could target trans people just living their lives.

Noreen Long
self
Austin, TX

This bill is poorly written, nonsensical and bigoted.
Firstly, the bill does not define what is meant by performance, by dressing as a male, or by dressing as a female.
Further, "a male performer exhibiting as a female, or a female performer exhibiting as a male, who uses clothing, makeup, or other similar physical markers and who sings, lip syncs, dances,
or otherwise performs before an audience" is not inherently sexual. Cross-dressing has been a mainstay of main stream theater since the beginning of theater.

This bill is clearly meant to target our trans siblings and drag performers.

It is poorly written, nonsensical, hateful, and unconstitutional. I urge you not to pass it.

Alexandra Messenger, N/A
Self
Austin, TX

Drag is not harmful; there is absolutely no research that shows that drag is harmful to anyone, least of all children. Drag is a playful art and an important part of the LGBTQ community and history. I urge you as a concerned Texan to not pass this bill; it will only hurt your constituents like me. Thank you.

Susan Sedberry
Self
Karnack, TX

I fully support SB 12.

Pixerelli Sunshine Fuhr
Self insurance specialist
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill, SB 12. We already have laws in place to protect individuals from sexually oriented performances if they don't want to see them. This bill gives too much power to lawmakers to decide what is considered a "sexually oriented performance" This takes time and resources away from actual critical issues. Please trash this bill.

Velma Perry
Self
Angleton, TX

Please support SB 12. Children should not be exposed to sexually oriented performances. Thank you.

Charlene Reagan
Self and True Texas Project
SPICEWOOD, TX

FOR SB12

Dear Committee Members, this is a no-brainer. No child should be subjected to a sexual show of any kind. If adults want to seek out this kind of entertainment for themselves, that is their prerogative, but children should not be present! It should be a criminal offense to put on a sexually oriented performance in front of a child. Think of it as a kind of sexual molestation or abuse. Do the right thing for our kids, committee, and vote FOR SB12.

Karan Windham
Self
Dallas, TX

I support this bill. I am a retired teacher and my entire career was focused on protecting my and others children from sexually explicit performances and materials.

Donald Zeek
Self
Dickinson, TX

I strongly recommend passing this bill. We need to stop sexualizing our children. Children need to learn how to develop wholesome relationships that don't have sex at the foundation of the relationship. Exposing children to sexual issues in the wrong way or timing only leads to unhealthy behaviors as they grow into adulthood which leads to pregnancies outside of marriage and the resulting high percentage of children who don't have the father and mother guidance needed to become good citizens. Besides the resulting humanitarian problems that result there is a burden on society to meet physical needs and manage the resulting higher incidence of crime from children raised by single mothers.

Linda Tollett
Self retired teacher
Houston, TX

I support this bill to protect all children.

Anna Lee Aitken
self/ concerned grandparent
Tomball, TX

I am for the passing of SB 12. It is very sad day that a bill must be passed to protect our children from predators. It should be understood that sexually oriented performances (actual or implied) should never be performed in front of children in any setting. Childhood is a very short span to time in which their innocence must be protected. As an adult ,we can choose to partake of pornographic content. That's our choice. Children do not have a choice in this setting. They assume their parents or teachers are protecting them but instead they are a victims of the "I'm woke culture" "I'm not a bigot culture". Instead the people who are suppose to protect them, have placed them on the alter of pagan depravity. Children do not have the cognitive understanding or mental capacity to understand what they are seeing. Studies have shown that exposure to sexually explicit during this has long term detrimental affect on them. I know from personal experience.

Let's get very graphic here. Do you think that adult men dressed up in gaudy skippy clothing strutting their stuff, humping and in some cases having wardrobe malfunctions is appropriate? Would you like your child or grandchild have an adult male in a thong with his junk hanging out in their face? You say no that can't happen - well it has. What is our society becoming. Have we become so godless and deprived that our innocent children are now no longer protected? We need the adults in the room to vote and pass this bill and send it to Governor Abbot for signature. Otherwise, we have lost our humanity and are now a fallen nation.

Tom Nobis
The Republican Party of Texas and Self
Houston, TX

I am For the bill. It's time to protect kids.

Marina Trevino
Marina Trevino
Friendswood, TX

I post in support of SB12 . I oppose the exposure of children to the abusive act of sexually oriented performances on tax payer funded properties.

Christin Bentley
Republican Party of Texas
Flint, TX

The Republican Party of Texas Strongly supports SB 12. Sexually oriented performances that appeal to prurient interests should not be performed in front of an audience of children who are not sexual beings or able to give legal consent to sexual acts. Parents do not have the right to sexually exploit their children. The state has a compelling interest to protect Texas children from sexualization.

John Nicks
SELF -
Magnolia, TX

I fully support this bill.

Gail Evensen
Self
Houston, TX

We need to not only restrict - but do away with sensually and sexually explicit performances luring our children from their innocence. Do away with drag nonsense. I am 68 years old and until the day I die I will remind my 6 grandchildren of their true identity - God made you a boy, and a man you will be ... and God made you a girl and a woman you will be! Other's confusion should not be forced on innocent children, not blatantly suggested.

Patricia Goforth
self- real estate agent
Austin, TX

Strongly Oppose this Bill. Drag is Theater.

corinne smith, pct chair
North Texas Citizens Lobbyist
sachse, TX

I am watching the State Affairs Committee Hearing this morning May 10, 2023 . It would suffice to say a Business Owner in Dallas is only thinking about his retail business and making a dollars off the profit of damage of innocent children. The fact that psychologically the AFFECT IS THE MENTAL IMAGE that stays in the brain can never be erased. Those influences and images ROB CHILDREN OF THEIR INNOCENCE!!! They should be allowed to make those choices when they become of age at 18. Parents themselves show that this kind of influences are themselves Quilty of Perversion !!! PORNEIA is a communist tool to remove the Family Unit From A Place Of STABILITY. URGE YOU VOTE NO . CSS

Angela Meadors Smith
Self, Fredericksburg Tea Party
Fredericksburg, TX

We are STRONGLY in favor of this bill. Children should not be exposed to the sexual nature of these public performances just as they are not allowed to be in strip clubs. Thank you for voting this bill out of committee in a timely fashion.

Katherine Taylor
Self
Austin, TX

Drag queens are performers. It is campy entertainment. There is no harm in their work and to criminalize entertainment is a first step to carving away democracy. This bill is a red herring. It should be struck down.

Robbie Smith
Self
Round Rock, TX

We do not need oppressive legislation. Period. You are restricting freedom of speech. This House Bill and others like it are unconstitutional.

David Nash
Self / Retired
Harper, TX

For SB 12. Please vote out of committee.

Jennifer Hixon
Texas Civil Rights Project
San Antonio, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on SB 12. We oppose this bill and urge you to vote against its passage. The purpose of SB 12, as identified by the author, is to prevent minors from attending drag performances. While the language specific to drag performances has been removed, the original intent remains. The proposed language is overly broad in at least two sections.

First, SB 12 doesn't define 'prurient interest,' which would allow for wide latitude by individual prosecutors, leading to inconsistent enforcement. The vague language could lead many businesses, including their insurers, to err on the side of caution and greatly diminish drag performances in Texas. Second, the language specifying "public property at a time, in a place, and in a manner that could reasonably be expected to be viewed by a child" is again so broad as to have a chilling effect on public celebrations for Pride Month, including Pride parades.

Courts, including the United States Supreme Court, have repeatedly defined obscenity. Courts have consistently ruled that to be considered obscene; art must lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. SB 12 proposes to supplant the wisdom of courts with a poorly defined standard both unnecessary and potentially unenforceable. Drag performances are integral to artistic expression in the LGBTQ community and communities in general. They are expressions of joy and artistry. Drag performances belong in Texas.

Everyone has a vested interest, and indeed a duty, to protect the well-being of children. However, this bill is redundant in any protections for children and aims to solve a problem that does not exist. SB 12 implies that LGBTQ people are not safe for children, a dangerous, false, and deeply hurtful message. This legislation is unconstitutional, overly broad, and deeply harmful to a community disproportionately targeted by violent actions of people opposed to the very existence of LGBTQ people Texas.

Joy Roberts
Grayson County Conservatives
Howe, TX

I strongly support SB12 to end drag shows in front of children.

Stephanie Cox
self
Conroe, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. It is reprehensible that children are exposed to sexually oriented performances with no regard for their innocence. Please use your position to protect children.

Laura Parker
Myself
Taylor, TX

Please move this bill from committee to House floor for a vote. It is sad we must implement more laws, but since common sense has gone out the window for some, we must pass this law to protect children from adults who have no self control. Sex is an individual matter, and needs to not be pushed on children. What you do as adult is your business. That is why we call adult businesses, ADULT. Please show our Texas children, our future, that they are protected on the street, in public places, especially libraries, schools, etc.

Lisa Williams
Self
Austin, TX

Please protect the innocence of children by protecting them from any type of sexually oriented performance.

Pamela Tuck, Mrs
Self
La Porte, TX

Any sexual activity or sexually explicit performances, should be restricted from being performed on tax payer public property, and most importantly, these sexual activities and sexual performances performed in front of children is absolutely ludicrous and should be considered a crime

Jennifer Fleck
self
Spicewood, TX

I am in favor of SB 12 in order to protect children from predators and sexually explicit content. It's a sad day when we have to pass laws to keep sex acts out of public view. This is common sense morality.

Nell Brindley, Mrs
Self
Temple, TX

Please pass SB 12 & protect Texas children from drag queen shows. Those of us in cities & small towns who are trying to stop these events need help from the Legislature.

Cindy Asmussen, Public Policy Advisor
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
Austin, TX

We are in support of SB 12. It is absolutely critical to protect children and their young hearts and minds from sexually oriented performances which has increased over recent years and sought to be normalized. We are asking that SB 12 be passed by the Texas legislature.

Holly Meister
Self. Regulatory Compliance manager.
Grapevine, TX

The bill is vague. While all can debate whether the the bill is targeted enough to only prohibit performances which appeal to the prurient interest in sex, the problem is that where there are varying interpretations of that language, a mere allegation that a certain performance is prohibited can ruin someone's life. While a court may ultimately rule in the performer's favor, one cannot underestimate the costs of litigation. Unless the state is also required to pay those costs, the performer may be financially ruined. I have personal knowledge of a person accused of a crime, prosecuted with no real evidence. The prosecutor stated he had to pursue the charge "for political reasons." The defendant had to wipe out his 401(k) to defend the charge. I attended trial. When asked to put on a defense, the defense rested and presented no evidence. The court dismissed the charge for lack of evidence of a crime. Nor can one underestimate the cost to reputation and damage to employment prospects when a criminal charge is pending, and the story is disseminated on the local news.

Putting aside whether drag is a crime, one cannot debate that it is art, protected by the First Amendment. Texas taxpayers should not have to fund litigation defending a vague statute that is clearly unconstitutional. Nor should a clearly unconstitutional statute be proposed to appease certain voters or legislators. Legislators have an ethical obligation to do their sworn duty to uphold the Constitution.

Sylvia Rodriguez, Chair
Ector County Republican Party
Odessa, TX

I strongly support SB -12,

Marian Reed
Self, Builder and Grandmother
Houston, TX

As a Mother and grandmother , I am in favor of SB 12. Texas should always protect our children from Harmful Sexually Orientated performances.

Lorran Rodriguez
Self Personal Shopper
New Braunfels, TX

Good morning,

I'd like to voice my support for SB 12 as it protects the future of Texas, the children who live here as parents must keep them from this evil because adults should not engage in or perform any sexually acts for children.

Children should just be that, children and focus on leaning, having some fun much like what I did when I was young.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Ruth Potts
N Tx Conservatives
Fort Worth, TX

I agree with this bill SB 12. These are specific locations and my opposition is when in the presence of children. Public include school and libraries where there have been several in the news in these locations for children. Also there have been shows specifically for children to come in commercial business. I am opposed to this being directed in anyway toward children. Therefore I strongly agree with the passing of SB 12 to restrict these performances as stated.

Jason Knight
Self. Director of Special Projects and Purchasing
Houston, TX

Pass this! Keep our children safe!

Grace Stark, Mrs.
Self - Writer
TAYLOR, TX

My children deserve to be in public spaces, and I as their mother, deserve the right to assume that when we are in a public space, my children's innocence will be recognized and honored by the adults around them. Allowing sexualized performances and activities--which willfully attempt to corrupt childhood innocence--in public spaces does not protect the rights of children, nor their parents, and therefore has no place in a meaningfully free or just society. I therefore support SB12 for the safety of my children, and yours.

Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

SUPPORT SB 12

What happened to the adult responsibility to protect children? At what point did society say it is okay to sexualize children? Is society performing some kind of "child/childhood" sacrifice?

When did society lose that innate sense of protecting the innocent and vulnerable? Are current laws about to be ignored or repealed: 21 to drink, ratings for movies, 18 for military, etc.?

When did the pleasures of an adult in a performance before children take priority over the innocence of a child?

What an adult does in his/her own space is "private." No one wants or needs to be part of another's private life.

Save the children!

Justin Maloney

self

Ft. Worth, TX

SB 12 must pass. The bill does not stifle creativity, criminalize art, or put the performing arts at risk as many testimonies claim. We have an issue with kids being exposed to sexually explicit materials in this state, and explicit drag shows are a part of that.

Kids don't belong in strip clubs. Kids don't belong at drag shows. Kids don't belong in any sort of hyper-sexualized environments.

Lisa Flores

NorthTexasConservatives

Frisco, TX

I fully support SB12 and ask that it be passed as is written. This bill needs to pass to protect our children from the improper performances that have recently been aimed at children which will cause harmful effects.

Kaaren Teuber, Lt Col

Self

Van Alstyne, TX

I strongly support this bill and encourage its passage.

Sage West

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is a direct attack on the LGBTQ community and completely unnecessary.

Angelina Farella

A Brighter Tomorrow Pediatrics, Angelina Farella, MD, PA

Webster, TX

As a pediatrician, I am in FULL SUPPORT of this bill in order to preserve the innocence of our children. We need to save our kids!!!

Jo Foley
self/none
Henderson, TX

I am very much FOR SB 12. It is needed because these Drag Queen shows are sexually explicit. To watch a child put money in an adult's clothing, or worse that there is little clothing on an adult, is horrifying. To watch a child strut an aisle imitating the gyrations of the adult next to them is horrifying. To hear adult men dressed as women telling kids stories glorifying being a gender they are not or using phrases like 'Lick it" is horrifying. Some of the witnesses are comparing people like Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders, wrestlers and Halloween costumes to Drag Queen shows - they are stretching the meaning of this bill way too far and they know it. The meaning of this bill is well known and understood. No one is saying that Drag Queens cannot perform, just NOT in front of any children. This is indoctrination, no doubt about it.
The people of Texas overwhelmingly are FOR SB 12 and I am FOR SB 12.

Wendy Eickstaedt
Self
Austin, TX

I OPPOSE SB 12. Drag is an art form that is not inherently sexual and it should be celebrated, not banned. This bill would have a significant negative impact for many of our beloved artists and musicians in Texas. Our children do not need protection from Drag and I am appalled that we are spending time and money on this discriminatory bill. Please vote no and do not send this bill forward. Thank you.

Natalie R Ibe
self RN, MSN
Leander, TX

A criminal offense is necessary any time these "performances" are done in front of a child! I have seen drag queen performances in front of children that are very sexually explicit in nature - with even male nudity. The images that I have posted on Facebook have been banned from that platform because of their very explicit sexual nature!
Thank you for your support for SB 12!

Jennifer Lucas, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

Please pass the restrictions on sexually oriented performances for example Drag Queen Story Hour. Our children are under such great social pressures at way too young of an age. It's our obligation to protect them.

Mark Reed
Self, Home builder, father and Grandfather
Houston, TX

As a concerned citizen in the state of Texas, my hope is that the Texas House will pass SB 12 and protect the innocence of our children.

Lib Grimmett, Ms.
Self
Wills Point, TX

Let's get this passed. Texas is again behind 18 other states who have already passed this to protect their kids! Don't let Abbott, Patrick & Phelan slow roll this to the point where it doesn't get passed again. We know why ut hasn't passed
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/top-texas-republicans-accept-over-250k-from-clinic-that-promote-gender-transition-for-children/>

Cathy Fulton, Ms.
Self
Port Aransas, TX

To the House State Affairs Committee:

I oppose SB 12 for a number of reasons with the number one reason being, IT IS NOT YOUR PLACE TO DICTATE YOUR IDEA OF WHAT IS MORALITY. It looks like this committee is going back to the days of Salem witch hunts. Honestly, how does this bill help with running the State? Isn't the operation of State Offices and Agencies what y'all are supposed to be focused on? If people don't want children or young adults to see a drag show, DON'T FREAKING TAKE THEM! It is ridiculous that this panel is wasting time because of a few phobic people. This panel needs to be focused true legislation that supports running this State, not this homo-phobic, over inflated concern with a drag show.

BTW, I find Representative Raymond's behavior to be very condescending and disrespectful to the people testifying. If Representative Raymond wants to know more about J Edgar Hoover, there are plenty of history books out there. I believe Mr. Raymond is deliberately mocking those testifying and Chairman Hunter needs to tell Mr. Raymond to take his bias outside!

It is unbelievable that this Legislature wants to "protect" children from various perceived evils, yet not one of you have provided protections with gun laws! Children have been murdered and none of you are doing a damn thing about it, but instead you worry about a drag show. How screwed up is that?

Please focus on actual running of the State and stop wasting taxpayer money on needless hearings. Please oppose SB 12.

Thank you.

Edith McCanless
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am in FAVOR of this Bill and would like to see it pass out of committee as soon as possible. Let's give children all of the protection we can while operating with a limited government.

Nathanael Navarrete
Ector County Precinct Chair (303)
Odessa, TX

I strongly support this bill as a representative of my constituents. These kinds of acts, of subversion should not take place in front of children. Drag is about sex, whether or not genitalia is seen. It is an outward expression of sex at its base. If it wasn't, then why would it deem necessary the adopting the characteristics that are stereotypical of the opposite sex? Children shouldn't have to navigate through these waters, and definitely shouldn't have these things paraded in front of them.

Brienne H Loftis
NTX Conservatives
Plano, TX

Anyone taking a child to a drag queen show should be charged with child abuse!!! We restrict children from smoking, driving, voting, drinking, serving in the military, and even obtaining tattoos until they are old enough to make these decisions. Drag queen shows are pornographic in nature and no child should EVER be subjected to them. This bill needs to pass- NOW!

Beatriz Cannon, Mrs
SELF
Houston, TX

How is it possible that we have to ask for your support for a bill which shouldn't be an issue to even make into law? A Bill to protect our children, Texas children to be exposed to sexually explicit performances. Shame on everyone who supports this abomination to be presented to our kids.
Pass the Bill to protect them

Tricia Kim

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to the restriction of public performances. It is parents' duty to choose the content their children experience.

Greg Bounds

Self

Henderson, TX

I do not want any children exposed to anything that is sexually explicit!!!

Sherry Eller

Self

Temple, TX

I SUPPORT SB 12. Please quickly pass SB 12 favorably out of committee. Thank you.

Marilyn Swartz

UTMB

Santa Fe, TX

Any school aged student or child under the age of 18 should not be subjected to sexual or gender orientation comments or teachings by anyone other than their parents. Drag queens or any other sexually oriented perversions should not be allowed in schools. Nobody has a right to subject our children to any sexual perversions in elementary, middle, or high schools in the USA.

Johnnie Werner

Self

Taylor, TX

Stop allowing people to sexualize our children. This should not even have to be a law, but now days simple common sense is being preverted. Please pass this bill out of committee so that it can be passed in the house ASAP.

Sharon Jorolan, Ms.

NTXC and self, retired

The Colony, TX

Please pass SB12, we must protect Texas kids from sexually oriented content and behaviors. This is getting to be ridiculous to have fight so hard to protect children's innocence and their bodies and minds.

Stop sexualizing Texas Kids, that's one of the 8 legislative priorities, get this done, please!

Sandra Tetley

Self

Galveston, TX

Texas has long seen fit to not allow children in bars, sex shops, adult book stores, strip joints, and bordellos and they need to catch up with the times and prohibit children from engaging in homosexually oriented drag shows for EXACTLY the same reason!!! Protect our children!!!!

Jackie Besinger

Self

Austin, TX

I am Jackie Besinger, I am in favor of SB12. I am representing myself in my statement.

For the past 10- years many responsible parents with children who are enrolled in public schools, have visited different restaurant's or parks have been alarmed by the imposition of sexualization of their children, drag shows are no different than nude bars where adult man or women go. Why would any adult be okay with having a man or a woman dancing around their children naked? This law will end the grooming behavior currently in our state that is causing a disruption in Texas family values. The vulgarity of the drag perfumers needs to go back to the bars where they entertain adults not children, these sexual behaviors don't belong in our state or nation.

The problem here is that children don't belong in drags shows, leave the kids OUT! Stand for the innocence of Texas children.

Richard McKenzie

self - retired fixed income derivatives trader

Austin, TX

I support SB12. Texas' children should be protected from viewing or participating in performances that promote or glorify sexual acts or transsexual behavior.

Thank you.

Ken Moore, SREC SD 11

self

Pearland, TX

I am FOR this bill. Young children should not be exposed to this sort of "entertainment" for the same reasons they should not be exposed porn, advertisements for cigarettes and drugs, gore, and violence. We wisely reserve this sort of content for adults and use all practical means to keep it from impressionable children. Drag shows should be place in this same category for adults only.

Deb Spencer

Self

Boyd, TX

I am in support of SB 12. Please help the detransitioners get the help they need from being lied to. Don't knock them down again.

Deb Spencer

Self

Boyd, TX

I am in support of SB12. Please protect our children from being exposed to drag queens. They have no place in our libraries.

Ian Camacho

Self - director of research

Waco, TX

If indecent exposure and showing or distributing pornography to minors is illegal, then we should be treating such performances as no different.

Sally Fiveash

self

Carrollton, TX

I don't understand how this bill, along with several others being considered during the session, does not go flying thru this legislative body. Our children are being exposed to so many things that are harming them mentally, as evidenced by a number of studies about the decline in the mental health of our youth, because they are not yet mature enough to understand what they are seeing and hearing. Please move this out of committee as soon as possible and do everything you can to support the passage of legislation that will try and protect our kids from this inappropriate sexual inundation. Thank you.

JAMES SCHWANE

Self

WHITEHOUSE, TX

Please vote "Yes" in support of SB 12. We must stop the harm being done to children and the societal destruction resulting from inappropriate, immoral sexualization.

Tanya Holland, Self

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I'm a mother of 2 boys and am against this bill. As a parent, it is up to me to decide whether or not a performance is sexually explicit, not the government. My children deserve the opportunity to be exposed to various types of art, especially art that is NOT sexually explicit like drag performances. While drag has been removed from only this bill version, it remains an explicit attack on the trans community that is already under significant scrutiny. They are a beautiful and accepting community, something that is agreed upon by so many Texans as is indicated by the witness lists. As lawmakers it's your responsibility to vote in alignment with what people actually want - please vote against SB 12.

Krystal Glass

Moms for Liberty

Boerne, TX

I oppose SB 12.

Nathan Bicketstaff

Ellis County

Midlothian, TX

We Support this Bill SB12

SB12 prohibits sexually oriented performances in front of children. Including DRAG SHOWS.

Brian Lavelle

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Please stop wasting our tax money on non-issues like this. I don't need a nanny state telling me what is and isn't appropriate for me to show to my kids.

Cynthia Wiley, Ms
Self
College Station, TX

In favor of SB12. Parents are to protect their children from harm. When this duty is not fulfilled children can be harmed both physically, mentally and/or emotionally. Desensitizing our children to gender norms confuses their understanding of societal roles. Children who do not have structure and clear understanding of mother and father constructs and family constructs, do not have a toolbox to navigate relationships. Not all children will react the same. Watching a person dressed up, maybe knowing they are a man (probably father imaged) in very exaggerated clothing and makeup (probably processing a mother image) must give pause to the child's known familial images. That maybe entertaining to adults, but are children experiencing it the same? I don't think so. Mother of 3 grown adult Aggies. Apply common sense. Our children do not see things the way adults do. Thats reality and it needs to be embraced. Period.

Addie Gomez
Self; parent and 6th generation Texan
Austin, TX

I oppose SB 12 for the following reasons:

1. This is a solution in search of a problem. There is not a single documented case in Texas of a drag performer bringing harm of any kind to a child.
2. It promotes a fictitious understanding that drag performers are innately sexual, predatory toward children, and that they are to be feared and hated.
3. Neo-nazi groups support proposals like this. That alone should be enough to oppose it.
4. The bill language is extremely vague and presents major constitutional concerns relating to free speech and discrimination.
5. Isn't this supposed to be a small government state that promotes parental empowerment?

Krystal Glass
Moms of Liberty
Boerne, TX

I approve this bill. This shouldn't even be a bill that needs to be passed! When you have laws in place for adults at a workplace not to talk about sexual conversation, why is it suitable for the innocent ears of minors?

Meredith Reed
Self
Houston, TX

This should be a criminal offense

Tracy Shannon
MassResistance TX and Self
KINGWOOD, TX

Greetings, I am the Texas Director for MassResistance. I have led several investigations into drag queen entertainment for children. My conclusion from those investigations is that drag entertainment should not be marketed to children. Even if the event is "kid-friendly" the entertainers use their drag names and have sometimes provided their social media handles to children. Drag culture is full of **kink, erotica, prostitution, fetishism, vulgarity and profanity**. We don't market this type of content to children in any other arena and we should make no exception here. The drag entertainment industry is closely tied to the burlesque entertainment industry with entertainers performing at the same clubs and shows. We wouldn't promote burlesque to kids and similarly we should not promote drag to kids. We also do not promote adult homosexual club life to kids. Many of these performances have taken place in homosexual clubs complete with elixirs for kids. It is unacceptable to be creating a kid-friendly gay bar scene where children are accompanied by adults for the adult nightlife experience or a rainbow and glitter-filled version complete with sugar to accomplish child sexual grooming. My contention that drag queens are not role models and should not be entertainment for kids is girted by the findings in our reports that many are prostitutes and some are even sex offenders. Background checks are routinely not done.

Some of our findings:

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/19a/MR-TX-Houston-DQSH-battle/media-firestorm.html> expose on Houston drag queens, 2 trans sex offenders, 2 trans prostitutes, a trans porn star, and a trans dominatrix in one dqsh for kids. No background checks.

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen4/20b/Austin-TX-Blackshear-library/index.html> BDSM homosexual leatherdaddy invites drag queen prostitute to elementary library, coaches on how to get around background check.

https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/19c/Leander-TX-victory_081519/index.html

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen4/20a/Liberal-media-vs-MR-2019/index.html>

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen4/20a/WV-Morgantown-DQSH-stopped/index.html>

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/19b/Leander-TX-DQSH/protest-win-061519.html>

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/19c/Drag-Queen-convicted-prostitute/index.html>

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/19a/MR-TX-Houston-DQSH-battle/expose-sex-offender.html>

Drag queens are not for kids! Please pass this bill immediately out and protect Texas kids whose parents don't know any better and somehow believe grooming kids teaches acceptance.

Michael Burdick, Pastor
self
Fredericksburg, TX

I strongly support this bill. Children must be protected.

Rox Sayde

Self, graduate student

Austin, TX

I'm grateful for the committee sub stripping the bill from language explicitly targeting drag performers. I'm still against the bill as written, however. I've yet to hear a convincing definition of "prurient interest", and I'm concerned that if made into law, the vague language in this bill could still be used to target performers on the basis of gender expression. This bill could even be used to target cheerleaders, or anyone who experiences a wardrobe malfunction. We need to trust parents to make decisions about what performances are appropriate for their children, not give broad leeway to law enforcement to slap criminal charges on performers.

Finally, since there's no guarantee that the final version of this bill will omit language specifically targeting drag, I hope the committee will pay due attention to testimony from drag performers who want to perform their art in peace. Like any art form, some drag performances are completely appropriate for children and others aren't. Children are already barred from attending sexually explicit performances at bars, while there's nothing inherently sexual about drag queen story hour at libraries. Others have said it better, so I'll keep my comments here short.

More than anything, I want to stress that voting for this bill, even watered down as the committee sub is, could still put drag performers and trans people at risk given that this bill is so different from the version that passed through the Senate. I'm concerned that the Senate will push for the re-inclusion of explicit anti-drag language, passed the point where public comment is accepted. For this reason, I beg you to not take chances with our lives and livelihoods, and vote against this bill. If you truly agree with us that targeting drag performers specifically is unconstitutional, then the committee sub isn't good enough - we must stop this bill entirely.

Robert Thayer

Self

Odessa, TX

we need this to be passed. It is an obvious bill. We need to protect our kids, families, adults and our community from these kinds of performances. this is a criminal act.

ANNE NEWMAN

self

Fair Oak Ranch, TX

Please support SB 12 and pass it as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Jordan Arias

Self

Austin, TX

Hello committee members,

My name is Jordan Arias. I am a life-long Texas resident currently residing in Austin, and I am strongly opposed to SB12 and urge the committee to vote against it. Drag is an art form that has brought joy, laughter, and community to people of all kinds through out most of American history. This bill demonizes drag and creates a false narrative that all forms of drag are dangerous and sexually explicit in nature. The content of a drag performance, like all other art forms, can be catered to the audience that it attending the event. Just like TV shows or movies, there is drag that is uplifting and completely appropriate for young audiences and there is drag that is meant to be for adults. This bill ignores that fact and penalizes the entire art form. Furthermore, we should trust Texan parents to know what is best for their children when it comes to the events that they allow their children to attend. I think the Texas legislature has enough faith in Texan parents to allow them to make that choice for themselves. Please do not remove a parents choice to allow their child to witness any type of art form that they or the parent chooses. Lastly, I understand that the wording of this bill has been changed in House committee to remove mention of cross-dressing or the specific mention of drag. While this is a step in the right direction, I still oppose this bill as currently worded as it's original intent was founded in discrimination towards the LGBTQ+ community. Bills like these have given bigots and hate-mongers a platform to be emboldened to show their hate outwardly and publicly against the LGBTQ+ community. Violence against the queer community has risen dramatically because of these bills and I hope the Texas legislature will stop bills like these and any other that target marginalized communities like the LGBTQ+ community as a message to the bigots that all Texans are welcome in this great state and all Texans can feel safe here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kerry Yarbrough

Texas Eagle Forum

Garland, TX

Support SB12 to ban sexual performances on public property or in front of children. Protect the children.

Linda Ricks

Self

Midlothian, TX

Dear Representatives, please vote this bill out of committee immediately so that it can go to the floor for a vote. Please check for any POOs that might interfere with the passage of this bill. This should be a bipartisan bill! Protect children!

Thank you,

Linda Ricks

Courtney Pessa

Self

San Antonio, TX

I VOTE YES—PASS SB 12!

Children do not need to watch men sexually performing in drag shows. I cannot imagine any lawmaker thinking this is okay for Texas children. Sickens me. PASS THIS BILL.

Richard Trulli

Self

Killeen, TX

Tx this is unconstitutional and reprehensible, to even consider it is to ally oneself with other fascists and Nazi.

Janet Brown

Self

Belton, TX

For SB 12 - I have been an advocate in the Trafficking Awareness field for over 10 years. As part of that advocacy, I participated in outreach that enters Adult Sexually Orientated Entertainment Businesses (Strip Clubs) in Texas to minister (pray with & encourage) women working in this industry. I've seen women perform in Strip Clubs with the same sexual movements and nuances as I observe in Drag performances. There is not any difference in the performance. This clarifying bill, SB 12, is essential because of the suggestive gyrations, provocative moves, sexual props, and dance, which is often part of a Drag Show. Also, this type of performance is rated number 1 for the Trafficking of individuals, and often minors are trapped in it. Children, specifically minors, should be protected from this type of performance, and any business that wants to include Drag performance should be listed under Adult Sexually Orientated Businesses n Texas. Thank you for protecting Texas children and our families.

Sabrina Grimm

Self

Austin, TX

Drag Shows are not inherently sexual performances! There is a VERY long history of people dressing as the opposite sex for the purpose of entertainment going back at least as far as the plays of Shakespeare if not to the dawn of drama in Ancient Greece itself. This kind of bill is just a product of the current moral panic revolving around trans people, gender presentation and other issues the right wing anti-LGBTQ+ crusaders have decided will help them get elected. Drag story hours are no threat to children. If you want to protect children, maybe fix the broken CPS system in this state. Focus on REAL issues and not this culture war garbage.

Lauren Alindogan

Self, school clerk

Austin, TX

SB12 is a dangerous bill that would endanger an individual's right to self expression in their public and private lives, and I strongly urge my representatives to oppose it. This bill would criminalize personal free expression in an artistic drag performance. In addition to endangering lawful public performance in drag shows, this bill risks criminalizing a private citizen's personal expression of their identity. Drag bans have been applied beyond drag performance settings; they have historically been used to harass LGBT people dressing and expressing themselves in everyday life.

Why should a halftime performance of a cheerleader in a short skirt and top be legally permissible but a drag performer wearing similar clothes and dancing to similar music considered obscene? This bill threatens freedom of expression in our public and personal life. An individual's constitutional right to self-expression is clearly outlined in the First Amendment, regardless of their gender expression and identity.

Deborah Rose

Self

Moody, TX

I am for the restrictions!

Brad Stuver

Self - pro soccer player

Austin, TX

I stand against SB12. This bill is a direct attack against the LGBTQIA+ community and targets a joyous form of expression and entertainment.

Sheron Bachus
Republican Women
Temple, TX

Drag Queen dancing and shows do not have any place in public venues especially in the presence of children. They should be restricted to private adult clubs.

Jayne Orum
myself
Georgetown, TX

Please pass SB 12 for the protection of children. It is shocking we've come to such a time that this has to be put in to a law, but that is what happens when tolerance and encouragement of deviancy goes on unabated.

Gretchen Janzow
self
Austin, TX

I OPPOSE SB12. Drag is an age-old art form that is NOT inherently sexual and it should be celebrated, not banned. This bill would have significant negative impact for MANY of our beloved artists and musicians in Texas, as well as small business owners, which keep our economy alive. Our children DO NOT NEED PROTECTION from Drag artists and I AM APPALLED that we are spending OUR TAX DOLLARS and RESOURCES on this discriminatory bill.

C'mon y'all. YOU CAN DO BETTER FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS.

PLEASE VOTE NO to this unpatriotic bill and FOCUS ON PUBLIC EDUCATION and SENSIBLE GUN LAWS. Thank you.

Barb Stauffer
Self
Garland, TX

I urge to support SB12 as Mother, grandmother of precious children. Totally inappropriate & unconscionable to subject children to sexually oriented performances , such as drag queen shows. Thus, I support civil penalties, creating it a criminal offense.

Ashley Stuver
Self, Student
Austin, TX

I stand against SB12. Bills like this threaten public safety by exposing queer communities to target violence and hate. It is a direct attack on the LGBTQIA+ community.

Diane Edwards
Self
San Antonio, TX

There is never any good reason to subject children to the world of adult entertainment, fantasy, or lifestyle choice. They are not able to thoroughly reason at that age nor could they interpret the emotions may conjure up. Why can't we let Chikdren's be children?

Mary Jo Robinson, Mrs.
Self
Belton, TX

Drag shows should not be where children or underage people see them. They should in clubs for adults only. This is adult entertainment

Eric Mata
Texas Organizing Project
Dallas, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB12, a proposed bill that seeks to restrict sexually oriented performances on public property, commercial enterprises, or in the presence of a child. As a resident of Texas, I believe that this bill is not only unnecessary but also a threat to our fundamental rights and freedoms.

This bill is yet another attempt to regulate the behavior of consenting adults and restrict their freedom to express themselves in ways that do not harm others. It seeks to criminalize certain forms of artistic expression, such as burlesque performances, which have a long tradition in our state and contribute to our cultural diversity.

Furthermore, this bill will have a chilling effect on businesses that offer adult entertainment, such as strip clubs and nightclubs, and could lead to the closure of many of these establishments. This, in turn, would have a negative impact on the state's economy and the livelihoods of many Texans who work in these industries.

Finally, the bill's provisions regarding the presence of a child are vague and overly broad, and could lead to the criminalization of innocent behavior, such as a parent taking their child to a museum that features nude art.

In conclusion, I urge you to reject SB12 and any other legislation that seeks to restrict our fundamental rights and freedoms. Let us focus on issues that truly matter to Texans, such as improving our education system, creating jobs, and ensuring access to affordable healthcare.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Emilie Kopp
Self
Austin, TX

Native Texan here, born and raised to feel proud of my home. Why are we wasting time and energy on something so benign? Please focus lege efforts on fixing the grid, gun reform, and figuring out how to evolve our state income tax. I am against this bill because it's a distraction from things that actually matter. Stop pandering to extremists and make this state better for the moderate majority, please and thank you.

Kathleen Schmidt, Mrs
Self retired military spouse
New Braunfels, TX

For the safety and well being of our children and generations, I pray y'all see this through.

Susan Wilson
self/retired
Spring, TX

Please support this bill! Sexually oriented performances, especially in the presence of a child, should be restricted. "Drag queen story hour" and that type of "performance" should absolutely be prohibited!

Jerry Schirmer, Ph.D.

Self

Austin, TX

SB 12 is simply an unacceptable piece of legislation, in its original or in its amended form. Leaving aside the intended targeting of the LGBTQ community in the original intent offered, let's instead focus on the extreme vagueness of banning any "performance" that happens anywhere where children can be present, so long as it presents an appeal to a "purient sexual interest".

The core problem is that all of the above is completely subject to an extreme amount of subjectivity. What is a performance? What is purient? what is sexual? How plausible is it that children might be present?

And the fact that this was specifically brought up in response to drag performances makes it eminently clear that local municipalities, at least in some parts of the state, will absolutely take this to mean that *all people* who do not conform to expected gender norms are sexualized and appealing to the corruption of youth.

But the thing is, my existence, and the existence of my friends, our natural expression of who we are, and our *daring* to exist in public are all things that are *not* an appeal to a purient sexual interest. They are just the basic fundamental rights of Americans and Texans to be equal contributors and participants in society. We should get to exist without the risk of being harassed by local authorities. Our right to be in public should simply be guaranteed, freely.

Thank you for your consideration, please vote no on SB 12. In all of its forms.

Tory Morris

Self; systems administrator

Austin, TX

My name is Tory Morris and I oppose SB 12.

I was raised how I think many conservative voters and members of this legislature would want children to be raised. I was raised in the DFW suburbs by a mom who was in the military and a dad who's from a law enforcement family. My parents are conservative. We went to church every week; my parents, my sister, and I volunteered in various ministries during the first service and attended the second service as a family. I was active in the church's youth group. I taught Sunday School and was a church camp counselor. I was a straight A student involved in several extracurriculars including honor societies and community service groups. I studied at the University of North Texas because it wasn't far from my home town, and I spent most weekends with my family. It was instilled in me by my entire community that homosexuality was "devious" and "unacceptable." I never had any exposure to drag or queer people. And yet I knew that I was queer.

I am now in a same sex marriage. My entire career in the nonprofit sector has been devoted to serving others. I go to drag shows multiple nights per week. I am here at the Capitol every single week this session advocating against legislation that would harm my community. Despite changes to the wording of this bill to exclude "drag," it would still be weaponized against drag performers and already-vulnerable trans folks and is a slippery slope toward stripping citizens of their rights and liberties.

Introducing this legislation has already caused harm to queer folks in Texas. It has emboldened hate groups including the Proud Boys and neo-Nazi groups. Folks advocating against this bill have received death threats, and drag performers are afraid to walk alone to their cars after gigs. Groups who testify in favor of this bill claiming to advocate for family values doctor photos of drag performers to appear as if they're performing in front of lewd signs or in front of children -- these photos are often from shows I personally attended and where absolutely zero minors were present. Our opposition has to create fake evidence to advance their cause because they know they don't have a valid argument. Meanwhile, a member of this very body was removed for grooming an underage staffer.

Intolerance and hate, not to mention gun violence, are the real threats to children in this state. Growing up in a country where children are killed in schools, and where conservative groups and media say over and over again that being gay or trans is "an abomination," "unnatural," etc. causes irreparable mental and emotional harm that will follow them into adulthood and push them away from their families and communities. I lost friends to suicide throughout high school and college because of the rejection they faced for being openly queer. This bill is nothing more than a distraction scapegoating the queer community, which has shown time and time again that they won't back down from a fight.

Lisa Flores

Self

Frisco, TX

I support this SB12. I consider Drag performances to be of pornographic content and do not want children to be subject to it. I also believe it will affect them mentally. Please allow SB12 to pass!

Lyn Adams

Self-retired

Temple, TX

My opposition to SB 12 is not based on gender orientation. We have restricted sexually oriented heterosexual performances to “adult” venues licensed and regulated especially to protect minors. Even adults should be protected from unwanted sexually oriented dancing, gestures, music, and comments.

I have heard opposition from the homosexual community saying that not allowing drag queens shows would ban them from their homosexual identity. Any person not trying to groom children or give ANY kind of unwanted sexual attention has freedom to “identify” as whatever pronoun and to associate with mutual preferences on a personal private basis within the confines of acceptable behavior in public. “Adult” venues give more latitude for sexual expression.

We have long barred minors in “adult” venues and movies. To insist on having anything of a sexual nature to include minors is overt grooming, regardless of gender identity.

Alison Shanklin

Self

Houston, TX

Restrict sexual performances on public property!!!

Larissa Ramirez

Myself - Construction Project Manager

League City, TX

I support this bill, and hope that our representatives fight for our children

Lori Moore, Ms

Self, retired

Round Rock, TX

I DO NOT support SB 12. I think this anti-drag bill is frivolous, damaging, and performative on the part of Hughes.

Thomas Mahler

self

Austin, TX

I am against this poorly written bill that is targeting people without any scientific, medical or peer reviewed research based merit. The intent is to attack the queer community in a vain attempt to solicit support, donations and votes from an un or underinformed public who falls for fearmongering. This bill will do absolute harm and stifles self expression, creativity and entire communities. There are many issues the state should be focused on right now, this is definitely not one of them.

Timothy Maxwell
self
Austin, TX

SB12 is a mean spirited, close minded bill that flies in the face of the constitutional right to free speech and to assembly in public. The fact that the authors cannot distinguish the difference between wearing clothing not traditionally designed for your gender and "sexually oriented performances" is troubling and sad. It is already illegal to expose children to "sexually oriented performances" but according to this bill we can't play some very popular classic rock music videos in public because men weren't wearing traditionally male clothing. All this just to attack trans people who really pose no harm to anyone, while turning a blind eye to yet another mass shooting where children were murdered in public. I don't know what y'all's priorities are, but they seem real messed up.

Sarah Mills, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Drag is not a crime, and the bill is vaguely worded, making it possible to harass transgender individuals just for being in public. As a physician, I know this bill will harm people and put already vulnerable populations more at risk. Please oppose this bill.

Carol Noriega
Self
Austin, TX

Drag performance is not sexually oriented. Please leave these artists alone. They do not hurt anyone. They are more like clowns to children. This is not a problem to our society so this is a waste of time and resources. Please instead focus on the real harm caused to children from gun violence.

Stacy Weidmann
self
Austin, TX

Drag shows are not sexually oriented performances any more than cheerleading, beauty pageants, or any other form of appearance-centered entertainment are. The government deciding what sort of entertainment I can consume is overreach in the extreme, not to mention against the spirit of freedom upon which our country and our state are founded. And vague wording that could lead to arrests or other forms of harassment by bad actors makes this bill a very bad choice for Texans. Please vote this into the dustbin.

Roberta Kentspeth
Self/homemaker
Austin, TX

This should not pass. It's too vague and too restrictive at the same time, which is a feat. PLEASE do not pass this!

Marisa Pisano
Self, teaching artist
Austin, TX

This bill is completely unnecessary and does nothing to protect children. Instead, it puts Texans at risk of not being able to live full lives in keeping with their individual gender expression. Please respect the privacy of your citizens and their ability to make their own choices regarding both gender expression and entertainment. This bill would make most Shakespeare performances punishable. How absurd. These types of bills make us as a state look, at best, a joke, and at worst, incredibly evil with regard to individual citizens trying to live their lives. Please vote against SB 12.

Andreas Standiford, Dr.

Self-- nurse

Euless, TX

This is censorship of the worst sort. Drag is a costumed performance, much like circus clowns or vaudeville shows. Just like dance, it's not inherently sexual. Drag is an art form, and must not be criminalized. Passing this law will put Texas on the wrong side of history. If this law is passed, it will eventually be repealed, and future generations will be embarrassed that there was a time we tried to criminalize a beloved art form.

Mark Kaplan

Freedom of speech loving Texans

Dallas, TX

Children lay dead in Texas streets, and you think rag is our biggest concern? Wake up! Do your jobs! The Texas Legislature is a laughing stock, and your unwillingness to put Texans before guns is shameful. You can deflect from these shootings all you want, but one thing is certain, none of them were committed by a drag queen.

If you decide to push for this absolutely unconstitutional law, I look forward to challenging you on day 1.

Robin McShaffry

self, stagehand

Austin, TX

This bill as written does away with most live theater and performing arts. It's so badly written it makes illegal traditional musical theater shows like "Gypsy" and "Some Like it Hot" among others.

Christina Wilson

Self

Georgetown, TX

Drag queen shows are sexually explicit in nature much like a strip show adults enjoy, they have no business being exposed to minors. I support this bill.

Stephanie Davis

Self

Austin, TX

Here to OPPOSE the SB 12 anti-drag bill and I hope

Our representatives will do the same on the behalf of our community. My children love the confidence boost of a drag performance and cat walk and no one should be criminally charged for such entertainment.

Anat Belasen, Dr.

UT Austin

Austin, TX

As a citizen of Texas I strongly oppose SB 12. This bill is an attack on freedom of speech, on the arts, and could have far reaching negative consequences on the quality of life for some of the most marginalized people in Texas. The way this bill is worded appears to be intentionally vague, allowing anyone from a drag performer, to a transgender person, to a librarian dressed as a historical character to be fined exorbitant amounts of money. This makes absolutely no sense from either an economic standpoint, or a standpoint of ensuring equal rights and freedoms to all Texans of all identities. If passed as law, this bill will inevitably lead thousands of people to flee the state of Texas for their own safety, and will halt the influx of people into our state. The consequences for our economy alone would be devastating.

Mitzi Higginbotham
Self/ Parents, Educators, Childre
Reklaw Texas, TX

I support SB 12 Senator Hughes' bill that will restrict sexually performances on public property, on the premises of a commercial enterprises, or in the presence of a child/minor. This bill will also offers civil penalties and it creates the sexual performances as a criminal offense. We need to stop the mental ill, Satan possessed folks normalizing evil, sexual behavior that preys on innocent children in TEXAS. This is an unacceptable lifestyle that WILL destroy the minds of children. I don't condone this behavior in any form or fashion, and resent any of my tax dollars being connected to any type of sexually oriented performances or taking place on public property. There is no gray area for sexually oriented performances to be acceptable for Texas' children. Saying these performances are "Family Friendly" is straight from the pits of hell. If you vote against this bill it implies that you condone and promote sexual, repulses behavior for children. I can only assume you are in the group who enjoys perverting children as sexual predators gyrate their genitals in front children. The argument that these performances are "expression of art" or "forms of art" is hog wash! I am not stupid and I wasn't born yesterday. "It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble." Luke 17:2. Please vote YES for SB 12.

ishrat kundawala
self
austin, TX

This bill is infringing upon the 1st amendment rights of artists and venues and is also an extreme over reach of parental rights by the state.

Natalie Thaddeus
Self
Austin, TX

I, a lifelong texan, oppose this bill.

Margie Quinton
Self/Dispute Resolution Manager
Argyle, TX

Drag isn't inherently sexually, it isn't grooming, and it shouldn't be a crime! Let people dress how they want to dress and leave them alone!

Jonathan Felber
Self
Houston, TX

This bill is an insult to the state of Texas that is so proud of it's freedom. Opening the door to hate and legalizing it is not something any Texan should be for.

Christina Converse
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Stop removing rights from Texans. We are better then this.

Erica Morales

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Erica Morales and I am a queer person living in Austin and I am against SB 12. I trust parents and families to make the right decisions when it comes to taking their children to entertainment events. This bill does not protect children from the real harms they face today such as mass shootings. There is no purpose to protect children from drag performances that only bring them joy and gives them representation of people they will come across in their life. This bill only puts drag performers in danger from hateful and violent people. This is an already marginalized group that is not properly protected and this bill will only exaggerate this. Drag performers already don't feel safe and we are already seeing groups of hateful people pushing back. This bill contributes to the stigma and hate that the queer community faces. Drag performers do so much of this community. Drag performers uplift this community. Drag performers bring joy to the community. They are a vital part of this community. I can personally say that being shown drag growing up had positive impact on my life. Passing this bill will be a great deserve to them.

Celine Carneiro

self, student

Austin, TX

As a resident of Texas I do not support the passing of this bill. It restricts the personal freedoms of others and actively endangers the LGBTQ+ community. The intentionally vague wording of this bill means it could be used to harm and endanger trans lives and other private citizens of Texas. In addition, there is absolutely no evidence to support that drag performances are bad for the community.

Holly Hugo

Texas citizen, mother and grandmother

Temple, TX

Please support this bill to protect our children. I agree with the question, Ask yourself, why do they want children for their audience?" That is unnerving that they seek out a young audience. Please pass this!

Thank you!

Rachel Collier

Self, logistics and data management

Del valle, TX

I think this bill miscategorizes performances as sexual that are not, and is so poorly and over generally worded that it could be weaponized to attack regular Texas citizens in public for their very normal and modest choices of apparel. It criminalizes types of performances that have been an accepted part of our culture for hundreds of years, much enjoyed by people from various religions and beliefs. It drastically reduces personal freedom and does nothing to improve the safety of children.

Alicia Adams

Self

Houston, TX

DO NOT CRIMINALIZE DRAG. I'm strongly against this bill.

Ryan Gaskin

Self, Receptionist

Liberty, TX

I oppose this bill. It would criminalize theatre and could be used as an excuse to criminalize trans people. Not to mention, it shows a complete lack of understanding of the thing which it intends to ban and the cultures it sprang from.

Bethany Enfield
self
San Marcos, TX

Firstly, the wording of "certain sexually oriented performances" is too vague. Anything deemed "sexually oriented" could be criminalized under this act, which is an infringement on the 1st amendment and the right to expression. secondly, banning performance in commercial enterprises infringes on a business owner's rights to decide what happens within their own place of business. This is an authoritarian bill that seeks to limit my freedoms as an American citizen. Please do not move this bill forward.

Tawny Knudsen
Self
Montgomery, TX

Do not pass this bill. It should never be a crime to dress how you want and say what you want. This country was founded on those freedoms.

Winnie Hsia
Self
Austin, TX

This bill would have a major detrimental impact on my business and for the performance culture of Austin and Texas as a whole. Drag is a vital part of many performances, including the widely popular Nutcracker with the Mother Ginger character often portrayed by male public figures.

Erika Haynes, Ms
Self, contractor
Austin, TX

"drag" is entertainment, theatre, and completely harmless fun. Stop being silly and focus on issues which will improve the quality of life for all residents of Texas.

Steohen Rice
Self
Austin, TX

This is a harmful bill that will do nothing to increase safety for children. Shame on you.

Dorothy McGee
Self-Clerk
Sugar Land, TX

This says that cross-dressing in a performance is a sexual performance, even though the theatre has always had performers dress in costumes of various genders. This is directly regulating all theatrical performances, whether sexual in nature or not. Is the theatre requiring state interference now?

Rebecca Clemons
Self Student
Austin, TX

I am extremely opposed to this bill. The classification of sexually oriented performances is extremely vague, and allows for interpretations that are dangerous to many people, especially transgender people. Enforcing this would only harm already vulnerable members of our community and will do nothing to actually protect children.

Austin Griesinger
Texas Family Project
Weatherford, TX

Texas Family project supports SB 12.

This legislation is one of TFP's top priorities to see passed this legislative session. Our organization has worked hard with community members and citizen journalists to expose the sexually explicit nature of some drag show events that have been hosted across the state in recent months.

Citizen activists have exposed these events online showing performers twerking in front of children, children being encouraged to put money in the performers underwear, and even a performer spreading their legs and exposing their crotch in front of a child. We have even seen satanic imagery used in these shows.

An event that displays that kind of behavior is no place for a child. Calling it "family friendly" does not change that fact.

The Texas Family Project encourages this committee to vote this bill out as soon as possible. It is late in the session and the days are counting down.

We also encourage you to be diligent and thorough in preparing this legislation for the House Floor should it be voted out of this committee. Over the past 10 days we have watched good legislation die to technical points of order. Don't allow this bill to be another one.

Thank you.

Rayshaad Jackson
Myself
Missouri city, TX

I am in direct opposition of SB12.

Todd Cole
Self
Spring, TX

This bill is a ridiculous government overreach. It does nothing to protect children, and it will only clog our already-overburdened justice system with prosecutions for victimless "crimes." It's a transparent attempt at culture war pandering, and I think most Texans realize that.

I urge the Senate to stick to libertarian principles, keep the state out of people's business, and vote down this idiotic bill.

Julianne Brannan
All of Texas Queers
Lubbock, TX

DO NOT criminalize drag. We've already TRIED this in history and it doesn't work! It's a step backward, not a step forward. SB 12 is ridiculous and drag queens are NOT the issue. The issues are conservative trash thinking that people dressing up is a threat. DO NOT DO THIS. It is a WASTE of time and energy. These are not "sexually oriented" performances, it is the conservative fools sexualizing drag.

David Lautenschlager
Self Music Teacher
Copperas Cove, TX

Y'all are some stupid pieces of shit

Keira E Marti
self, filmmaker
Austin, TX

Not only is the wording too vague, it also censors free speech, and it erases the voices of many citizens. Representation matters at all ages, and not every drag show is sexual, just like not every straight comic makes sexual jokes all the time. putting on clothes is not inherently sexual, not is wearing make up. This will damage lives, not just livelihoods.

Amreek Saini
Self
Austin, TX

I opposed this bill

MEEGAN HONEYMAN
EQUALITY TEXAS
LUBBOCK, TX

This bill is an unconstitutional attempt to suppress the free speech and expression of all Texans and yet another threat to the civil rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans.

This is extreme government censorship and overreach of an art form and medium of expression that has existed since the days of Shakespeare.

We all want to protect kids but not through the filing and passage of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination.

Drag is an art. It's theater, it's camp, it's dressing up, it's acting. It's embodying and bringing to life a character to entertain the public - to escape reality, experience joy and laughter for an hour or two.

Many small businesses that host drag events want to create a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community and take precautions to communicate whether their entertainment is family friendly. Erroneously labeling these businesses as "sexually oriented businesses" can lead to additional zoning issues, which may shutter these businesses for doing nothing more than serving their local communities and patrons.

GLAAD and Equality Texas have been tracking threats, including public armed protests and death threats, made against drag shows across the country, and we've seen a significant spike since politicians and public figures started spewing these anti-drag narratives.

Radicalized anti-LGBTQ+ extremists groups are distributing social media graphics doxing people who show up to counter protest them. This increases the risk of bodily harm to people who have done little more than exercise their first amendment right to defend their right to enjoy camp and playful entertainment.

Carol Andrews, Dr
Self. Registered nurse
San Antonio, TX

Drag queens do not belong in public places, and especially not in libraries where presentations are geared for children. Drag queens can do what they want in adult settings geared toward sexual expression, but they don't belong in any other setting, and certainly not in libraries where their presentations are geared specifically towards children. This kind of activity is totally inappropriate and unacceptable and unnecessary for children. Please pass this bill to limit such activity. Let kids be kids.

John Bean
Self, Corrections Officer
Houston, TX

I think this is bigotry and grandstanding when there are issues worth addressing. Stop attacking people's lifestyles and deal with issues that are actually ending human lives like gun Control or at least increase spending on mental health assistance to stop the cause you claim is behind so many shootings. Address environmental health to better the health of the citizens. Modernize the weather resistance of our infrastructure so we can deal with more erratic weather patterns. These are actual physical problems, not made up concerns of gender issues. For goodness sake these people aren't hurting anyone! Priests and preachers do more sexual damage than drag queens! It has no impact on your life if you don't choose to go to a show. It does impact their lives if you make it illegal. Morality laws are bigotry and modern Jim Crow. Be better.

Maggie O'Connor
Self, paralegal
Houston, TX

The existence of this bill is abhorrent and dangerous. The intended targets are drag performers, who have never threatened the safety of children, but this also silences the free expression of cisgendered heterosexual artists. To slap a broad definition of "sexually oriented performances" is negligent and outstandingly telling of a narrow mindset.

Mitra Woody
self stay at home parent
Houston, TX

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill online. SB 12 is an unconstitutional attempt to suppress the free speech and expression of all Texans and yet another threat to the civil rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans. This is extreme government censorship and overreach of an art form and medium of expression that has existed since the days of Shakespeare. We all want to protect kids but not through the filing and passage of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination. Drag is an art. It's theater, it's camp, it's dressing up, it's acting. It's embodying and bringing to life a character to entertain the public - to escape reality, experience joy and laughter for an hour or two. Many small businesses that host drag events want to create a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community and take precautions to communicate whether their entertainment is family friendly. Erroneously labeling these businesses as "sexually oriented businesses" can lead to additional zoning issues, which may shutter these businesses for doing nothing more than serving their local communities and patrons. GLAAD and Equality Texas have been tracking threats, including public armed protests and death threats, made against drag shows across the country, and we've seen a significant spike since politicians and public figures started spewing these anti-drag narratives. Radicalized anti-LGBTQ+ extremists groups are distributing social media graphics doxing people who show up to counter protest them. This increases the risk of bodily harm to people who have done little more than exercise their first amendment right to defend their right to enjoy camp and playful entertainment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis Trinh
self
Sugar Land, TX

This is nothing more than a hypocritical example of government overreach from the party that declares itself in favor of small government.

MITCHELL LOVETT
Equality Texas and Self / Lawyer
Dallas, TX

I am a gay veteran who deployed and fought for the United States in the Middle East. This bill is discriminatory against and popularizes hate against my demographic and the people like me. I cannot believe I fought for freedom, only to see it die by at the hands of my own representation. I am opposed to this legislation and the current legislative focus on anti-trans and anti-LGBT bills is wrong and absurd. Texas' citizens and children are facing real issues and this bill is indicative of bias and hate against people who are different. As a lawyer I can say without doubt that this bill, and those like it, are discriminatory and an affront to our nation's great promises. This bill will do nothing but eat up legal resources of the state and ultimately die in the Courts. You are losing republicans in the masses due to your position on these imagined issues. The morality police mindset is dangerous and leads Texas to appear less of a place that enshrines freedom and more akin to a state of dictators and religious rule.

Nick (Paige) Hendrick
Self - Software Engineer
Austin, TX

As a transgender mother, I feel compelled to voice my opposition to SB12. While the intent of the bill to protect children from overt sexual content is certainly commendable, the broad and ambiguous nature of its language raises concerns about its potential to be applied to vulnerable communities, particularly transgender parents who are existing in public with their children.

The lack of clear definitions and guidelines in the bill regarding what constitutes "prurient interest" or "performance" creates a great deal of uncertainty and leaves room for misinterpretation and misuse, especially for trans feminine individuals who are already unwilling oversexualized by cisgender heterosexual men. Transgender parents who are already facing significant discrimination and marginalization in society are particularly vulnerable to being targeted and unfairly penalized under the broad scope of this bill.

The implications of this bill for transgender parents and their families are concerning. It may restrict their ability to participate in everyday activities with their children, such as attending school events or visiting public places. This could have a devastating impact on the mental health and well-being of both the parents and their children. I am deeply involved in my child's life and I have significant concerns that this bill as written could impact my ability to continue being able to be an active participant in my child's life without risking significant criminal liability, especially since this bill as presented seems to also cover one's personal home. Would dancing around my house to music on cleaning day become a criminal act? What about singing (poorly) in my car in the school drop off/pickup line? There's just too many questions on the potential applications of a bill with such a broad scope.

In the past, I have led coding classes for youth in order to inspire our next generation of technologists and teach a valuable future job skill. This bill as written would prevent me from volunteering to do that, it would criminalize the act of public speaking based on its current language. I'm deeply distressed by the possibility of losing my ability to stay engaged with my community and to give back to others safely under this language.

I urge lawmakers to reconsider the wording and scope of this bill to ensure that it does not unjustly target and harm marginalized communities, including transgender parents and their families. Instead, the focus should be on developing policies and practices that promote safety and inclusivity for all children and families.

Logan Foster
Self
goliad, TX

This bill is going to cause numerous deaths in the Texas queer community, whether by suicide or homicide. I speak against it and I implore the committee to do the same.

Lance Looper
Myself
Georgetown, TX

This bill is harmful and not in Texas' best interests

Sirena Perry
Self - Contractor
San Antonio, TX

I want to discuss the potential economic impacts of banning the performances listed in the bill. Drag performances in particular are an important part of the arts and entertainment industry, and they have a significant impact on local economies.

Firstly, let's talk about the economic impact of these performances themselves. These shows generate revenue for the performers, the venues, and the local businesses surrounding the venue. Drag performances draw in a diverse crowd, including tourists who may travel from out of town to see the show. This influx of visitors can lead to increased business for local restaurants, hotels, and shops. Additionally, drag performers often spend money on costumes, makeup, and other supplies, which further supports local businesses.

Moreover, the entertainment industry, including drag performances, is a significant employer in many cities. These jobs provide valuable opportunities for performers, designers, and support staff, who are able to earn a living doing what they love. If these performances were to be banned, the loss of these jobs could have a ripple effect throughout the economy, leading to reduced spending and decreased economic activity.

Beyond the direct economic impacts, a ban on these performances could also harm Texas' reputation and ability to attract visitors. Many people enjoy attending drag shows as a form of entertainment and cultural expression, and a city that bans these shows may be viewed as intolerant or unwelcoming. This negative perception could deter visitors and hurt the local tourism industry, which is a major economic driver.

Lastly, it's important to consider the larger societal impact of banning drag performances. Drag performances have long been a platform for members of the LGBTQ+ community to express themselves and connect with others. A ban on these shows could send a message of intolerance and discrimination, which could lead to further marginalization and harm for LGBTQ+ individuals. This could have negative implications for the overall social and economic well-being of a community. Further, the bill forbids municipalities from authorizing these performances on public property, effectively gutting Pride parades as well. The optics on that are not positive as we come into National Pride month.

In conclusion, banning these performances could have significant economic impacts, including job loss, reduced spending, and harm to Texas' reputation and ability to attract visitors. Furthermore, it could send a harmful message of intolerance and discrimination. I believe in the importance of promoting diversity and inclusivity, and I encourage the House to consider the economic and social benefits of supporting performance and the arts more broadly.

Hilary Selden
self, university lab manager
Austin, TX

Please let reason prevail and vote against SB 12. Legislating what people can and can't wear in such broad strokes threatens the freedom of all people, and could have unintended consequences far broader than the targets of this legislation. There are far better ways to actually protect Texas children than by trying to legislate dress codes for public spaces. Children need food, education, and safety from gun violence - even modest improvements in these areas would be much more useful than whatever this legislation intends to accomplish.

Evie Breedlove
Self
Round Rock, TX
No drag bans!

Jennifer Madrid
self
Belton, TX

Please protect our children and prohibit any sexually oriented performances on public property. Sexual addiction has become a very serious and difficult-to-overcome issue to those who find themselves in this bondage, and also to those they relate with on a regular basis. Many afflicted with this very serious addiction are entrapped early in life- often in childhood. Please, please protect our children who can be seriously negatively impacted- often for life.

Mary Hicks
Self
Dickinson, TX

Please stop the corruption of our innocent children!

Christopher Millard
Myself and my family
Spring, TX

This is a ridiculous Bill. People have been dressing in clothing for thousands of years. Why are we worried what people are wearing. As long as they have clothes on, who cares. Drag is a form of expression and have been used in theater for thousands of years. Come to your senses.

Zaid Razvi
Self
Sugar land, TX

I believe this bill is an infringement of the rights of expression by all people and criminalizes a harmless and affirming practice through an intentional misunderstanding. It should not pass.

Mogwai Turner
Self, Natural Resource Specialist III
Austin, TX

This bill is absolutely horrible and I am vehemently against it. This bill will endanger and destroy lives. Drag is not inherently sexual and does absolutely no harm to a child. Drag should not be criminalized.

Wendy Scoggins
Self, Graphic Designer
Austin, TX

Texas comes in dead last in the number of insured citizens per state. We have the 45th lowest rate of home ownership. We are 39th in citizens living in poverty, and 40th in the number of citizens who are in poor or bad health. We have had SIX mass shootings in less than five months. So why, in God's name, are we regulating drag queens? Focus on the issues that would actually make life better for Texans, and stop bullying and harassing marginalized populations who are simply exercising their freedom to be who they want to be.

Jennifer Waters
Self physical therapist
Richardson, TX

Drag is not a crime. It is shameful that our children are being literally slaughtered in school and shopping malls and you are worried about drag? Don't like drag, do not go to a show and don't take your kid. Stay home and think about ways we can keep our children safe from REAL concerns, like 18yr olds buying semi-automatic weapons

Catherine Dobson
Self - IT Professional / Investor
Round Rock, TX

Supporting any such bill does not sound like freedom to me. Expressing gender is not a crime and making it such opens us to the creation of more regressive laws and reforms until no one is free. This bill would make Shakespeare performances illegal. It would have thrown Ragan in jail. Many of our troops dress up in performances while over seas.

Chelsea Carter
Self
Austin, TX

Drag is not bad! It's an art form. The "all ages" show is different than an 18+ show.

Kaitlyn Rubenbauer
Self
Dallas, TX

Since when does government have the right to enforce what someone should wear!?

Patrick Stinson
Self (Teacher)
Pflugerville, TX

I oppose SB10, the so-called "anti-drag" bill. It serves no valid legislative purpose—it protects neither children nor anyone else from harm. Instead it shields transphobic harassers with the power of the state. As a teacher, a parent, and a TX resident for 14 years, this bill is disgraceful and makes my family less safe.

Brandtley McMinn
self - software engineer
Pflugerville, TX

This bill is wholly unnecessary, is based on unsubstantiated anti-trans rhetoric, and serves no purpose other than to target, harass, alienate, and discriminate against a minority group of the LGBTQIA+ community. The performances being targeted are not inherently sexual in nature, as that would be akin to burlesque which is generally age restricted to begin with. This oversimplification conflating the two is disingenuous and misleading to the public at large.

David Brett
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose SB 12 as it seeks only to harm

Steven Arawn
self homemaker
spring, TX

Strongly against this highly political bill that does nothing to protect while causing harm and fear to residents and guests of our state.

Heather Joy Thomas

ArtByHJoy

Austin, TX

I am AGAINST this anti-drag bill! Drag performers are adults with discretion and their performances are customized to be appropriate for children when children are present at a specific show for the children! If it is an 18+ show then it is appropriate for that age range. They are NOT sexually grooming children!! They are NOT pedophiles !! And the last thing they want to do is STRIP out of their carefully and painstakingly constructed costumes that took hours to build for their performance! They are ACTORS! They are PERFORMERS! Respect their craft!

Jack McBride

Self - Nonprofit

Houston, TX

This bill is an unconstitutional attempt to suppress the free speech and expression of all Texans and yet another threat to the civil rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans. We all want to protect kids but not through the filing and passage of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination. This discrimination is anti-Texan.

Steven Neel

Self tech

Sugarland, TX

Opposing SB 12

Richard Falkenhagen

Self

Houston, TX

This bill is harmful and would suppress free speech. I thought that was something we all agreed was bad.

Melanie Palmer

Self. Clinical nurse specialist

Austin, TX

I object to this bill as it unfairly targets the right to free speech and limits creative expression. There is NO data that this type of performance is harmful. A better use of your time would be to limit weapons that are harmful and killing our children.

Timothy Eggert

Self, actor

Spring, TX

A performance where you dress differently from whatever gender you were assigned at birth doesn't automatically qualify as sexually-oriented. All this bill will do is criminalize time honored comic tradition and lead to reinforce unfounded fears in non cisgender individuals. The idea that drag performers groom children is ridiculous, and this bill coming from a political party that looks the other way when children are groomed by clergy or shot by citizens who obtain firearms too easily is disingenuous at best.

Lise WIlson

self

Austin, TX

I am deeply opposed to this bill, as it is being used to target drag performers and their community. Drag is NOT inherently sexually-oriented performance. Drag is an example of gender expression. A person's gender expression is separate from their expression of their sexuality. Instead, it has been shown in nation-wide studies done with LGBTQ youth that there is a reduction of suicide attempts and increased mental health well-being when they have access to seeing diverse form of gender-expression being expressed and represented, especially if they can see themselves reflected. Our LGBTQ youth matter. And their families matter too. I raised my kids in the drag performance community here and they are both well-adjusted, kind, healthy and happy and strongly grounded in their identities.

Kenneth Shirek

Self

Austin, TX

This bill does more damage for performers than helping save children. The parents of the child should be making the decisions, not the state.

Thain Allen

Self - Human Resources

Houston, TX

This bill is in unconstitutional by restricting freedom of speech. This is an extreme government overreach. If the government can dictate what type of performances are allowed, what's next? Should we ban Shakespeare? Halloween? I thought Republicans were for smaller government and all I see here is taking away freedoms.

Daniel Williams

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I fail to see how this bill is helping anyone. I get the impression it simply seeks to harm American citizens for being themselves, which is tremendously in American, if you ask me.

Rally Jinx

self, software developer

Austin, TX

Please do not pass this bill, it defines "sexually oriented performances" too broadly and does nothing to actually protect children. Drag is not inherently sexual or harmful to children. Men and women performing in drag has a long history and this is nothing more than an attack on the LGBTQ+ community.

Parents can decide what types of performances are suitable for their children without the state getting involved.

Liz Happel

Self - Retired

Galveston, TX

This bill is in unconstitutional by restricting freedom of speech. Drag is not sexually oriented. Im so ashamed to be a Republican. This is an extreme government overreach. If the government can dictate what type of performances are allowed, what's next? Should we ban Shakespeare? Halloween? I thought Republicans were for smaller government and all I see here is taking away freedoms.

Laquita Nettles

Self

Johnson City, TX

Keep any and ALL sexually oriented books, performances and discussions out of every school in Texas including public and private, from pre-K all the way through universities.

Lueng Tcheung, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

Please oppose SB 12. This bill restricts freedom and the language is so vague that it isn't clearly defined,

Teresa Bailey Weirich

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

Stop sexualizing our children. Social predators look for opportunities to normalize age inappropriate sex and target young people. This bill helps address this issue.

Dane Powell

Self

Houston, TX

I do not support this bill. This is an attack on law abiding citizens and a waste of government time.

Michelle Ramirez

self

Austin, TX

As a constituent of Austin, Texas for the last 11 years, I am in strong opposition to SB 12. As a social worker with experience and expertise in supportive services for children of all ages as well as being an educator on gender and sexuality, I can confidently say that this bill would create harm in the form of overall barriers to expression that could be detrimental to mental health, safety, and feelings of belonging for children, creating systemic obstacles through criminalization, and institute social repercussions and stigma that validate feelings of hate resulting in harm as far as murder. To be clear, bills like this ensure that people are targets for murder if they are performing gender in a way that the state has deemed wrong.

Gender is the way in which we each individually interpret socialized messages and abstract concepts that we have popularized as a society as it is related to our body parts. Gender performance is broad and although there are some ways of expression that have been deemed normal, it does not make them better than other forms of expression. The influence of how people should dress, according to these norms, has largely come from religious viewpoints. Pushing these beliefs institutionalizes a concept that is rooted in only one view point of our society. This is at its root, unfair, and the consequences far outweigh validating one way of being. Insisting that expressing gender away from a norm is "sexually oriented" demonizes an entire population of people, and perpetuates the idea that drag queens, queer people, trans people, are predatory when in reality, there are statistics to disprove this idea and prove who the actual predators are. I hope to live in a state that is better than what this bill represents.

Please vote in OPPOSITION of SB 12 to continue fairness in how we treat people of all gender expressions.

Sierra Vernon

Self

Austin, TX

Texas needs to get back to being small government and stop trying to police what businesses do. Drag shows are not inherently sexually oriented performances, and audience appropriate shows are at the discretion of venues and performers.

Clarissa Johnston, Dr

Self physician

Austin, TX

Just mind your own business, if it is my right to buy and carry a gun I should also have the right to see a drag show. What is next, outlawing fun? Don't be a hypocrite

DAVID LOPER

Self, Library Clerk

Sugar Land, TX

Drag is neither sexually oriented nor harmful to children. This is like telling people they can't dress up as Elsa to entertain a kids birthday party. It's foolish and an obvious attack on the queer community to further harmful and discriminatory views. Perhaps you can deal with gun violence, since that's the leading cause of death for children at the moment. Foolish.

Bri Thatcher

Self

Austin, TX

Drag is not a sexual performance. Drag is art.

Priests wear dresses every Sunday and more of them have been proven to sexually assault children than people in drag (I could find no documented cases of a person in drag sexually abusing a child).

So why are priests allowed to put on their performative art with a way to hide their potential pedo-boners? If we ban drag from the eyes of children, that must be extended to include clergy.

Alex Soto

Self/Hair stylist

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill! Stop targeting the LGBTQ community!

Karl Gelinas

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose this Bill

Ruth McCleskey

Self

Houston, TX

A performance where you dress differently from whatever gender you were assigned at birth doesn't automatically qualify as sexually-oriented. All this bill will do is criminalize artistic endeavors by dance companies, theater companies and opera houses that use performers to fill roles.

Bryan Mejia

Self

Houston, TX

As a Texas native I Do not support this bill, let drag queens have their freedom of speech.

David Fields
self/self employed
Austin, TX

My name is David Fields and I live in zip code 78723 in Travis county, and am dropping a card in opposition to SB 12, which is being heard in State Affairs today.

Jennifer Felion
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill.

Drag is in no way an inherently sexually oriented performance; laws to ban it are overreaching (there are already laws in place to shield minors from sexually explicit material). Moreover, I am concerned with the performative gender implications of this bill. For example, will a woman who wears pants and has chin hairs be considered a drag performer? Diversity in gender expression is no threat to our state nor its children. We do not need our already over burdened court systems filled with this nonsense. We do not need our gender diversity squashed or our age-appropriate entertainments censored. Those of you who are concerned with maintaining traditional gender roles have the ability to teach your children your values without subjugating others.

Please vote no on SB 12. Thank you for your consideration.

Aaron Frausto
Self
Austin, TX

“Don’t tread on me” and “come and take it” ...so long as you’re cis and hetero. You need Jesus to take the wheel and guide you to a better path.

Janani Ravichandran
Self- Resident physician
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as this will take away from the rights of individuals. I feel that this bill is vague and can be interpreted as the restriction of public displays of affection by the LGBTQ community with the consequence of a civil penalty. This is extremely discriminatory and oppressive.

Sam Ueckert
self
Austin, TX

I write in condemnation of SB 12. This bill is an unnecessary overreach of government. You can't just declare that drag is a sexually-oriented performance. Shakespeare was done in drag! Reading the text of the bill, the language is broad enough to have a chilling effect on speech. This is not conservatism. This bill is absurd moralistic pandering and virtue signaling. Stop wasting time and actually do something to protect children from violence.

David Wheeler

Myself

Austin, TX

Peter Pan, English Pantomime, opera; all of these are theatrical works that regularly employ women dressed up like men or men dressed up as women. Mary Martin, at the age of 41, began performing as Peter Pan in 1954. She dressed as the title character in the 1960s movie. Since then women have dressed as Peter Pan in numerous stage shows throughout the country, in grade schools, high schools and before children of all ages.

SB 12 would automatically define these performances as adult.

Twelfth Night, written by William Shakespeare (and indeed many plays) have women dressing up as men and vice versa so that they can be near those they love. Is it the intent of the writers of this bill to make all such performances "adult"?

That is what SB 12 does.

English Pantomime, which is sometimes performed in the United States traditionally has a young "male" hero played by a young woman and an older "Dame" character played by a middle aged man. These performances are particularly made for children and have a long tradition older than that of our own country. You can see some of them here.

<https://www.pantoarchive.com/dame-gallery>

Is it the intention of the writers of this bill to make such performances "adult" by definition?

If not then either vote against this bill or don't bring it out of committee.

If you do, you stand against Shakespeare. You stand against opera. You stand against the honorable history of the theater as a whole.

Thank you.

David Wheeler

Carli Miller

self

Austin, TX

I'm against SB12 and the violent implications it has to the queer community, artists, businesses and basic constitutional rights.

Joanna Cordry

Self - IDD Crisis Specialist

Austin, TX

I am strongly OPPOSED to this bill. The idea that a drag show is a sexually oriented performance is ridiculous - what's next, arresting men who dress in female costumes on Halloween or in plays?

Dara Coulton

Self - Medical Coder

Pflugerville, TX

Drag is art, these performances are benign and pose no threat to children and may actually enrich their lives. There is nothing sexual about it

Dana Nordaune

self

Austin, TX

I oppose sb12 as frivolous and absurd. Drag performances are not inherently sexual and have been a part of our culture for hundreds of years without issue. this bill is not about protecting minors, it's about targeting, specifically, the lgbtq+ community. will known straight performers be held accountable? where does one draw the line? this is a ridiculous waste of money, time and effort. do something that matters. this is harmless good fun.

Daniel Thompson

Self, computer programmer

Hutto, TX

This is a bad solution to a problem that isn't really a problem. Instead of addressing real concerns about gun safety, electricity-grid stability, and years-long waiting lists for disability services, SB 12 has chosen to go after people who cross-dress for entertainment. So I have to ask: where are the dead children killed by drag performances? Where are the frozen homes, chilled by drag queens? Where is the quantifiable harm caused by these performers? Nowhere, because this is not really a problem. Worse, the bill is so poorly written, that it could apply not just to drag performances, but to anyone who is deemed to be wearing clothing inappropriate to their assigned gender. Am I going to be fined for wearing a kilt in public? Is my wife going to be fined if she wears men's pants just to get some extra pockets? Or is the poor wording just to lay the framework for harassing not only transgender youth but transgender adults? That seems to be far more likely.

Any why are you going after these drag performers and transgender people? Why is this suddenly a hot-button topic across the land in Republican strongholds? It's not because there is any real problem to be fixed. No. Instead, it is to distract the news media and the voters from the fact that the Republican standard bearer is facing criminal charges for trying to overthrow the 2020 election in an embrace of fascism not seen in America since the 1930s. It is a distraction from the fact that Republican-filled courts are overturning women's reproductive rights even when a majority of Republican voters themselves did not want Roe v Wade overturned. Instead of facing and fixing the party's failures, Republican legislators in Texas are picking a new underclass to hate and using scare tactics to distract the voters.

Texas and the nation would be much better served if you focused on fixing the real issues that are killing and hurting the voters and their children.

Christine Canaria

self

Austin, TX

Section 43.28. (1) (B) loosely categorizes a person's appearance as defining a sexually oriented performance regardless of what they are actually doing; it criminalizes the act of just being and supports that this bill is designed for state sanctioned persecution of a particular class of people and performers.

Zoey Lake

Self

Spring, TX

I support this bill. Sexual performances should not be performed in public places or in front of children.

Josh Salyers

Self

Watauga, TX

No one is being forced to go to drag shows, what an utter waste of time and disregard for personal freedom this is.

Ruth York, (1) VP; (2) Interim Chair

(1) Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; (2) Texas Family Defense Committee; (3) self (Direct sales)

Cisco, TX

We are firmly in FAVOR of SB 12 and thank Senator Hughes for filing it. We believe children should not be exposed to age-inappropriate, adult-themed, sexually explicit performances, as it leads them to explore topics and actors they are not mentally or emotionally equipped to handle.

Please vote "YES" on SB 12.

Julie Seay

Self

AUSTIN, TX

This is an absolutely ridiculous bill. Drag is the first form of art that I was able to see growing up in rural Texas that I could actually enjoy and appreciate. It's a gift to the community and should be celebrated by those who choose to.

Tabitha Bean

Self

Houston, TX

I think this is not fact based but fear based legislation. I am opposed to any bill that restricts drag shows. There are more documented and prosecuted cases of harm to a child by priests and pastors than drag queens. This legislation is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Zane Mittag

Self

Houston, TX

This bill is entirely unwarranted and unnecessary. It's a bold faced attack on the freedoms of marginalized communities under the tired, false-flag of "protecting the children". If you, or your party, as servants of the state of Texas, actually cared about protecting children, you would address their number one cause of death: gun violence.

Your intentions are transparent and you are purely anti American.

Dawn Bates

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly urge you to oppose SB12 which seeks to equate drag performers to burlesque or nude performers, and would also categorize any business that hosts drag performers as a sexually oriented business. I am concerned that this bill would have a number of negative effects, particularly on trans individuals and those who work in the drag performance industry.

The language in this bill is highly discriminatory and offensive, and would have the effect of unfairly stigmatizing and marginalizing individuals who choose to express themselves through drag performances. It would also equate these performers to burlesque or nude performers, despite the fact that drag performances are not inherently sexual in nature. Furthermore, the bill would have a negative impact on trans individuals who are already vulnerable to discrimination and violence. By equating drag performances with sexually oriented businesses, the bill would reinforce harmful stereotypes about trans individuals and would make it even more difficult for them to find safe and welcoming spaces to express themselves.

I strongly urge you to stand up for the rights of trans individuals and drag performers by opposing SB12. I ask that you take all necessary action to ensure that these bills do not become law, and that our communities are not subject to this kind of discriminatory and harmful legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Mercedes Vaughn
Self and unemployed
Austin, TX

This is absolutely ridiculous. I am offended that such discrimination is trying to pass itself off as being protective of the public. It is also likely largely unenforceable if you stop for a moment to think what actual full enforcement would look like and seems like more political grandstanding that is wasting legislative time that could be spent on actually important policy matters. I am furious about the resources being wasted over this.

Meredith Woods
Self
Austin, TX

This bill hurts Texans in every way possible. Financially, ethically, artistically. Do not pass this bill.

Whitney Kenney
Self, wife/mother
McKinney, TX

As a resident of North Texas, and mother to four children, I find it deeply offensive and abhorrent that this past year children have been allowed to attend "family friendly" drag shows. There is nothing family friendly about Drag, especially not about men dressing in women's clothing and acting provocative. This is a blatant attack on our society's morals and on our children's innocence. I urge you vote YES on SB 12 to restrict these performances to adult audiences, which contains people whose brains have fully developed and can distinguish the difference between normal and healthy sexual behavior (or which drag is NOT) and prurient entertainment.

Rebecca Oliver
Self
Friendswood, TX

I am in support of the Bill to protect children.

Sujata Ajmera
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is an unconstitutional attempt to suppress the free speech and expression of all Texans and yet another threat to the civil rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans. This is extreme government censorship and overreach of an art form and medium of expression that has existed since the days of Shakespeare. Many small businesses that host drag events want to create a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community and take precautions to communicate whether their entertainment is family friendly. Erroneously labeling these businesses as "sexually oriented businesses" can lead to additional zoning issues, which may shutter these businesses for doing nothing more than serving their local communities and patrons. I am opposed to SB 12 and any other anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. This bill is bad for Texas and it's bad for your constituents.

Emily Weerts
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is an outrageous infringement on freedom of speech and expression. It is a waste of the lawmakers and constituents time and money. Drag and related performances are not hurting anyone. Texas is a beautiful big state that is big enough for so many forms of expression, drag included. What a sad legacy to be so narrow minded as to restrict a harmless art form when there are so many important issues critically impacting Texans. If you don't like drag, don't go to a drag show.

Melissa Seal

Self

Austin, TX

I support trans people, drag and cross dressers. I believe in freedom. I believe this is the friendship state. And I believe in free speech. This is a hateful bill, that squashes freedom and as such us anti-American. I trust people in drag way more than youth pastors and ministers who have long documented histories of molesting children. If you want to stop child abuse, start there.

Nathaniel Chambers

self

Austin, TX

This is misguided transphobic and a form of sexual harassment. But I'm guessing the politicians sponsoring this bill are already aware of this and endorsing legal bullying at any cost. No matter what some vocal minority says, THIS IS NOT A CHRISTIAN ETHIC. Loving your neighbor is a Christian ethic.

Maranda Mulroney

Self, RN

Leander, TX

This is utterly ridiculous. You are going after an already marginalized group with lies and misrepresentation.

Jenna Gallagher

Self

Austin, TX

Drag is art. Drag is not sexual. Drag is innocent. Allow people to express themselves in an entertaining way. Drag artists are make up, costume, and performance artists. Not sexual predators.

John Hogan

Self, Telecommunications Engineer

Austin, TX

Banning Drag performers or performances on the basis of them being considered sexually oriented is a misguided and unfair attempt to limit freedom of expression and artistic creativity. It is based on the logical fallacy of assuming that all Drag performances are inherently sexual in nature, which is simply not true.

The reality is that Drag is a form of artistic expression that involves exaggerated, often gender-bending performances that are meant to entertain and challenge traditional notions of gender and sexuality. While some Drag performances may incorporate sexual themes or innuendos, this is not the sole focus of the art form. In fact, many Drag performers use their platform to address important social and political issues, such as LGBTQ+ rights and discrimination.

By banning Drag performers or performances, we risk stifling important conversations and silencing marginalized voices. We also risk sending a message that certain forms of artistic expression are not welcome or valid, simply because they challenge traditional norms and expectations.

Furthermore, banning Drag performers or performances on the basis of their perceived sexual nature is inherently discriminatory. It assumes that anything related to sex or sexuality is automatically obscene or inappropriate, which is a dangerous and outdated view. It also unfairly targets members of the LGBTQ+ community, who have historically been subjected to discrimination and persecution for their sexual orientation and gender identity.

In conclusion, banning Drag performers or performances on the basis of them being considered sexually oriented is illogical, discriminatory, and counterproductive. Rather than limiting artistic expression, we should celebrate and support diverse forms of creativity and encourage open and honest conversations about important social issues.

Geoffrey Goodman

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is a huge risk for my work in the events industry. There are many performances which may appear sexual to those outside the culture. This may drive many of my clients to other states and is already making them reconsider booking here.

As a parent, I retain the right to determine what is or is not "sexually oriented". It is not the place of government to overreach in this way.

Ivan Modrovich

self, Software Engineer

Austin, TX

Drag is just people wearing costumes. It's no more or less sexually oriented than Halloween, and yet I don't see anyone trying to ban trick or treating. This is just bigotry and harassment of the gay community, plain and simple, and it brings shame on the state of Texas.

Caitlynn French

Self

Austin, TX

This bill defining the use of gender crossing costuming as sexually oriented spits in the face of theatre for generations. Male and Females have played various roles in theatre performances, cross dressing for humor sake in ways that have never been deemed sexual in nature. The wording could apply to children choosing to dress as their favorite hero who does not match their gender identity, cosplayers who attend a convention performing, it puts a definition of what a few people view as male and female in appearance and clothing that is limiting their freedom of speech and expression.

This is targetting people who perform drag specifically but can expand outward to attach any person deemed not their gender at birth, or simply not feminine or masculine enough based off someone's opinion or religious values. Separation of Church and State means that ones persons religion does not get to govern another who may not share that belief. At that point it is in fact persecution to force others to live by the definition that your religion or interpretation of religion and try to force them to live inside your box.

Lynnea Edwards

Self, nurse

Houston, TX

I was born in Texas, obtained my Master of Science in Nursing at UT Austin, and have spent all my years in practice in Texas. I have raised my child attending a local preschool, with my partner of over 20 years. As a parent, I know how important it is to protect minors from abuse and harmful content at the hands of adults, yet here I strongly oppose SB 12 banning drag performances based on unfounded claims of potential harm to minors.

To quote drag performer Jinx Monsoon, “Drag is an art form that was born in the LGBTQIA+ community. So if you don’t take time to get to know that community, of course aspects of drag are not going to make sense to you.

“But we don’t have to understand everything to know that it should be allowed to exist. You know, I don’t understand every cultural aspect of every culture different from my own, but nothing about me wants to tell people to stop doing it, because that’s just people living their lives and being truthful to who they are.

“Why do we think we need to govern what other people do with their lives if it has no effect on our own?”

While you may not understand the purpose of drag for the LGBTQIA+ community, I encourage you to look at the facts in regard to how drag effects children. Where are the children and minors that are materially harmed by observing drag? I have seen no evidence of this in any of the testimony I have witnessed this legislative season, or anything I have read.

On the other hand, I have seen children materially harmed and killed by gun violence in this state, this very year. I wonder, can you tell me how long it’s been since we had a calendar year with no Texan children harmed or murdered by guns? I have heard of minors materially harmed by members of this very legislature, most recently Rep. Bryan Slaton who has now been expelled from state legislature for luring a child to his apartment and then engaging in sexually inappropriate acts. Rep. Slaton worked as a youth pastor, and as such had access to countless other minors. How many other minors has he groomed? How about Aron L Peña III, who has been accused of decades of abuse and assault, and continues to work for the state? In 2022, at least 10 Texas pastors, former pastors and youth ministers were arrested, charged or convicted for various allegations of sexual abuse of minors. Where is the legislation seeking to investigate politicians and church leaders for grooming, given the preponderance of evidence?

There are so many instances of adults in government and religion taking advantage of their authority to abuse minors. Yet, there are no accounts of minors being abused or harmed by drag; quite the opposite is true. I hope that you will take the time to critically analyze your own personal and religious motivations for furthering this bill. Again, in the words of Jinx Monsoon, “Why do we think we need to govern what other people do with their lives if it has no effect on our own?” Please oppose this SB 12.

Heather Falvo, Dr

Self, MD

Austin, TX

Please, leave these poor people alone. Have you ever been to a drag show? I’ve been going to them since I was a teen and I have not experienced any harm from this. You constantly spew about parental rights. How about allowing parents to determine what their children can witness and can read as opposed to making this a nanny state. Drag has never harmed a soul. Yet you refuse to do anything to curtail the number one killer of children in this state. We see you and your misguided and dangerous lies.

Ava Spetnick

Self, software product manager

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. This bill is a violation of free speech and freedom of expression and is a waste of lawmaker and constituent time and money.

gethrel williams

Self / retired

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. There is nothing inherently sexual about drag shows. This bill is patently directed at the LGBTQ+ population. We won't remain silent and watch civil rights be trampled by religious zealots.

Katie Littleton

Self- Mother

Pflugerville, TX

As a mother and TX voter, I have never once been afraid of my child being in the presence of a drag queen. I used to watch reruns of Flip Wilson with my dad, and was a child myself when Mrs Doubtfire came out. I certainly was not harmed.

Drag queens are not inherently sexual. They are entertainers. Any entertainment where a child would be, such as a public place as opposed to a 21+ establishment, would be non-sexual just like Mrs Doubtfire.

Also- is this really the most important issue for parents and children? It certainly isn't in my household. We are far more concerned about school bullying and fees regarding school lunch balances. Also the cost of healthcare and after school care and college.

Please talk to parents about what we need for our children and how you can really make a difference and stop wasting our time and taxpayer money with this nonsense.

Lacey Spencer

self, program manager for global onboarding

Austin, TX

The wording of this bill is inherently wrong as it applies to Drag or drag performances. It posits that Drag is sexually oriented, when it is not. From the NCTE: "Drag is a type of entertainment where people dress up and perform, often in highly stylized ways. The term originated as British theater slang in the 19th century and was used to describe women's clothing worn by men."

This bill is attempting to restrict a form of art, entertainment, personal expression and community that would cause mental and emotional harm to many of the individuals impacted. I believe it is motivated by fear, bigotry and is attempting to further the oppression of the LGBTQ community specifically. Instead of forcing Drag back into the shadows, we should be leveraging this moment to discuss WHY. This should be a moment to embrace our differences.

Kerry Hollyday

Self- Texas Registered voter

Magnolia, TX

Texas registered voter - AGAINST SB12.

Michelle Montabana

Self

Manvel, TX

I AM AGAINST THIS BILL!! This bill restricts the right to be one's self. It restricts an amazing art for called drag, if you don't like it don't go to a show. But don't put a restriction on a show and someone's livelihood. And this even restricts a right for a trans person to be themselves. This is to force trans people to go into hiding again. Why is Texas the best place in the US if someone cannot be themselves and live freely. If these acts are so bad, then why are you allowing children to still go to places like hooters where they can see people in shorts almost showing genitalia. As someone who has been to many drag shows I have never seen any kind of genitalia at a drag show. Now, saying that if you want to restrict sexual oriented performances, please know that you will be restricting places hooters, twin peaks and coyote ugly. Why not let people live and be who they want to be. You do work for the people of Texas and it is your right to listen to us. Please do the right thing and let people be who they want to be.

Cyrus Rua, Rev

Self

Bastrop, TX

A performance where you dress differently from whatever gender you were assigned at birth doesn't automatically qualify as sexually-oriented. All this bill will do is criminalize time-honored comic tradition and lead to reinforcing unfounded fears of non cisgender individuals. The idea that drag performers groom children is ridiculous and is not backed up by any data whatsoever.

Tim Rudloff

self

Pflugerville, TX

This bill is stupid. It won't accomplish anything useful, except give another excuse for the government to intrude on peoples' lives.

Dana Sayre

Self - drama therapist

San Marcos, TX

This bill is harmful to LGBTQ Texans. It is also censorship of the arts. Parenting decisions should not be legislated by the state.

Lydia Clay

Self

Austin, TX

This bill would infringe on the free speech of performance artist and drag queens. It hurts businesses and prevents new business investment should it be passed. Stop attacking the LGBTQ community!

Dustin O'Quinn

Self: Attorney

Houston, TX

We all want to protect children, but not through the filing and passage of unconstitutional, anti-LGBTQ+ laws that encourage discrimination, hate, and ignorance.

Many small businesses that host drag events want to create a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community and take precautions to communicate whether their entertainment is family friendly. Erroneously labeling these businesses as "sexually oriented businesses" can lead to additional zoning issues, which may shutter these businesses for doing nothing more than serving their local communities and patrons.

These types of laws actually increase threats to LGBTQ+ constituents. Organizations that track these threats have reported an increase in death threats and armed, public protests since politicians began spewing these anti-drag narratives.

Katherine Kiger

Self/Editor

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

Note the word "performance," you fools. Performing. Pretending. Acting. Play. Artistic expression. All that stuff you slept through in high school, apparently. You want to criminalize art. Brilliant. Here it is at kindergarten level, so **MAYBE** you can understand it: a man dressing as a woman, or vice versa, **IS NOT A SEXUALLY ORIENTED PERFORMANCE**. Get over yourselves, grow up a little, and reject this ridiculous legislation. You are an embarrassment to the state you claim to represent.

Lindsey Blackwell
Self, program coordinator
Austin, TX

This is a dangerous and discriminatory piece of legislation that will lead to people being punished for living their lives and wearing the clothes that match their gender in public spaces. This will impact a huge number of people and force people either back into the closet or to leave Texas entirely, taking their businesses and families with them. I know half a dozen entire families that are making the heartbreaking decision to move out of state because Texas is more and more becoming known as a hateful, dangerous place for queer people.

Amanda Brinker
Self
Austin, TX

I am commenting to register my extreme disagreement with this bill. I urge our elected officials to vote against this discriminatory and unnecessary proposal.

Shannon Bousquet, RN
Self
Austin, TX

Drag performances are an art form and bring joy to participants. These performances can be sexually oriented or not, just like any art, performance, writing, music, or movie. Public property is a space for sharing human expression and joy. Commercial enterprises gain business through entertainment. This bill does not protect children, it limits their access to creative expressions and theater. Vote NO.

Lindsay Glass
Self
Austin, TX

I want to register my opposition to Bill SB12. I am in favor of protecting our LGBTQ community!

Bianca See
Self - Teacher
Houston, TX

I am against the signing and passage of this bill on the grounds that trans identities aren't inherently sexual and drag is not a sex act.

Madelyn Weaver, Ms.
self - software developer
Austin, TX

The irresponsible Breadth of this bill can only be seen as foolish and the implications for First Amendment rights alone mean this bill, if passed into law, will be struck down in the courts. As written, this also has implications for the normal day-to-day lives of trans Texans and would inject needless complications into their lives to no real purpose. This is a publicity stunt that has gone too far and shows that the creators and proponents are more interested in punishing their perceived political opponents rather than actually governing. It is a disgrace to be a Texan while such buffoons are allowed a voice in our state's capital.

James Romero
Self - Creative Director
Austin, TX

Vehemently opposed. Go deal with real crime you facists.

Brandy Hamblet
Self, Program Coordinator
Austin, TX

As a mother, I am outraged that this is what you're choosing to spend your time on. Drag performances are not inherently sexual and never have been. Drag performances have been part of human history for centuries, since at least the time of Shakespeare, and have been a celebrated art form that I guarantee you have enjoyed at some point in your life. I suppose we'll be outlawing movies such as *Jack and Jill* (where Adam Sandler plays his twin sister) and *Mrs. Doubtfire* on television next. We have more important problems to deal with today than this.

Jimmie Bragdon, Mr.
self, community theater actor and tech
Austin, TX

The addition of adding drag or cross-dressing to the definition of sexually oriented performances is unneeded and overly broad. With this addition, how would someone stage Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, where a young woman disguises herself as her twin brother in order to survive where she has shipwrecked, and a comedic tale of mistaken identity ensues?

Disguising ones self as a different gender is a device used throughout classic plays and literature. In addition to that, the theater has a long history of casting good actors in roles whether they match the gender of the character or not. In fact, in its day, every role in Shakespeare was played by a man, as women were not allowed on stage. Are we to criminalize this now?

In pursuit of what are you trying to criminalize the act of putting on different clothes and makeup? Drag itself is an art form, and while often paired with burlesque and other adult forms of entertainment, the act of dressing as another gender for performance is not inherently sexual. Let the existing laws on adult performances cover any sexual or adult performances as they already do. There is no need to expand them to the mere act of dressing as the opposite gender, and this expansion could harm MANY performance art forms.

Kathryn Rosenmann
Self
San Antonio, TX

The word DRAG comes from Shakespeare. Female impersonation is a performance art and is not inherently sexual. Drag queens reading to kids is every bit as wholesome and good as Mr. Rogers. Not only that, anything that gets kids reading is NECESSARY. The US ranks 125th in world literacy and Texas rank in the bottom 5 of the 50 States. I would happily take my kids to to Drag Queen Storytime.

Also, gun violence is the number one killer of children. Meanwhile, children killed by drag queens is zero. Please focus one the actual, real-life threats to our children and lay off this culture war nonsense.

Morgan Eldridge
Self, graduate student
Lubbock, TX

I am opposed to SB 12 and any other anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. This bill is an unconstitutional attempt to suppress the free speech and expression of all Texans and yet another threat to the civil rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans. GLAAD and Equality Texas have been tracking threats, including public armed protests and death threats, made against drag shows across the country, and we've seen a significant spike since politicians and public figures started spewing these anti-drag narratives. Additionally, radicalized anti-LGBTQ+ extremists groups are distributing social media graphics doxing people who show up to counter protest them. This increases the risk of bodily harm to people who have done little more than exercise their first amendment right to defend their right to enjoy camp and playful entertainment. Drag isn't dangerous, the people shutting down the rights of others to enjoy this art form and enforcing it with threats of violence are.

Christian Fricke
self - software
Austin, TX

How many children have been killed by drag shows in Texas this year? How many have been killed by guns? The answers are "none" and "far more than none," but the Texas legislature chooses to use its limited time and resources to focus on harmless drag shows, while ignoring actual issues facing the state.

Michael Conwell
self - software engineer
Austin, TX

I'm against this bill and further attempts to rouse a political base for candidates based on threats to ordinary Texans.

Lisa Halliday
Self, consulting professional
Austin, TX

I am appalled at the amount of time and money the legislature is wasting on this. Drag performances span a broad range of entertainment, only a fraction of which could be considered sexually oriented. If a drag performer reading children's books excites you sexually, that is much more about your own proclivities than it is about the performance.

That you would take up this bill on the *very day* a conservative legislator had to be summarily expelled from his position due to sexual misconduct is the deepest hypocrisy.

Spend more time ensuring schools safe from gunfire and supporting classroom resources and school lunches.

Do better.

Nick Lanni
Self
Houston, TX

This bill is an unconstitutional attempt to suppress the free speech and expression of all Texans and yet another threat to the civil rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans.

This is extreme government censorship and overreach of an art form and medium of expression that has existed since the days of Shakespeare and as recent as "Tootsie". Radicalized anti-LGBTQ+ extremists groups are distributing social media graphics doxing people who show up to counter protest them. This increases the risk of bodily harm to people who have done little more than exercise their first amendment right to defend their right to enjoy camp and playful entertainment.

Christopher Murray
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Do not continue to persecute this segment of our population based on fear mongering that is not supported by any facts. Creating this type of intolerance goes against the independent spirit that this state should represent. Life is hard enough as it is. Just let people live their lives even if you don't approve or understand them. This is what America is supposed to be about.

susan leblanc
self/semi-retired
Wallisville, TX

Please support this bill. Children should not be exposed to sexually oriented performances.

James Dees, Mr.
self, teacher
Lubbock, TX

I support limited government and individual rights over the expansion of the state. This bill violates my values by increasing the government's reach over individual liberty.

Adrienne Foreman, Dr.
Self, Director of Content
Austin, TX

This bill is very vaguely worded and could be interpreted as prohibiting being transgender in public, which is hugely problematic. Additionally, this is a freedom of speech and freedom of expression violation. I am strongly offended and dismayed any lawmaker is spending time on this. It's a waste of time and taxpayer money. I'm significantly more concerned with obvious dangers to children such as automatic weapons and the plethora of school and public shootings that have happened in Texas over the past weeks.

Ann Morris
Me, myself and I
Lago Vista, TX

It is our responsibility to protect all children. A child cannot stand against a parent who would harm a child by sexualizing them. Stand up for the defenseless kids.

Robert Vercher
Self
Houston, TX

I strong believe demonizing an already marginalized sector of our society is against everything Christianity teaches us. We are not to judge. This will only lead to more deaths... but then again in minds of republicans, like AIDS, "it's killing all the right people". Horrendous voting record.

Don Odam
Self - Retired
Sherman, TX

I support this Bill

Shenai Moore
self educator
Lubbock, TX

I am opposed to SB12 and all other anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. Drag is art and not harmful. Stop trying to eliminate the existence of art and artists.

John Suder
Self
San Antonio, TX

Drag is not sexual. This specifically targets LGGBTQ without applying to anything else. A child would see more sexually explicit stuff eating at Hooters. A place where I've seen women rubbing their breast on children for their birthday yet no one is targeting them.

Karen Odam
Self - Retired
Sherman, TX

I support this Bill and request that you support this Bill.

Sarah Garrison
Self software engineer
The Woodlands, TX

O

A performance where you dress differently from whatever gender you were assigned at birth doesn't automatically qualify as sexually-oriented. All this bill will do is criminalize time honored comic tradition and lead to reinforce unfounded fears of non cisgender individuals. The idea that drag performers groom children is ridiculous, and this bill coming from a political party that looks the other way when children are groomed by clergy or shot by citizens who obtain firearms too easily is extremely disingenuous. As a society, we clearly understand that a performer can change for their environment like a foul mouthed comic that can also appear in blockbuster kids movies (there are many examples of this, but Robin Williams who voiced the beloved Genie in Disney's Aladdin and had leading roles in two movies where drag features promptly, seems particularly apt). We can have this nuance with drag performers as well.

Mande Kalbfleisch
self
Denison, TX

These types of sexually oriented performances need to be stopped! This is child abuse and predatory nature. Our children DO NOT need to be exposed to this type of behavior. Not too many years ago this would have been considered a punishable offense and these people would be in jail. What happened? Why is this not considered child abuse? Why is this not indecency in the presence of a minor child? Let's make it a priority to keep our children safe from these types of activities.

Justin Brady-Joyner
self
Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose SB 12, and any other anti-lgbtq+ legislation this session. SB 12 is written in such a way that it will easily prohibit freedom of speech and assembly through harmless events like Pride parades and drag queen story hours, but is disguised as a bill to protect children. There is nothing to protect children from, and the LGBTQ+ community (and drag in general) is not dangerous. This is a discriminatory law that fuels anti-lgbtq+ hate, and does not represent the voice of Texans, but only represents a vocal, hateful minority who seek to eradicate LGBTQ+ people. SB 12 is bad for business, too, and will disproportionately impact small businesses specifically.

Rowan Fau
Self, Bigot Eater
Dallas, TX

This is a really good way to show that you're a Nazi punk if you approve this.

DIANA CHAMBLESS
self
Bullard, TX

I strongly support SB 12. Drag Queens are nothing new. There were drag contests in San Francisco way back in the 1970's and they were Not For Kids. Look at SF today. Drag Queens are definitely adult-only entertainment. There is something extremely questionable about grown men dressing in drag and having a desire to perform for children. Protect Texas Kids.

Kathy Ponce

Self

Mayprarl, TX

I support the passage of SB12.

Michael Delisi

Self

Austin, TX

This is garbage nonsense legislation and you the person reading this comment know it. Spend your time on more important issues like affordable housing, improving access to mental health care, and at least doing SOMETHING to try to quell our state's new official pastime of gun violence. Trying to prosecute drag queens just makes you look stupid and weak.

Kathleen Taylor

Salvage Vanguard Theater and Self/ producer, artistic director, artist

Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose SB12 as it is oppressive and harmful to Texans. Enough is enough, please listen to the people of Texas and put your energy and our tax payer dollars to work elsewhere if so invested in protecting youth.

Kenneth Jones, MBA

Self; Entrepreneur, Tech CEO

Flint, TX

Please pass SB 29 & SB 12 out of the committee, thank you. God bless. — Kenneth Jones, MBA

Lisa Deroche

Self

Austin, TX

This is a ridiculous thing to waste time and money on. Don't like it, don't attend.

Christopher Balch

Self

Manor, TX

This is a bill which is against The Bill Of Rights Of The United States Of America. SB12 must be voted down in order to preserve the rights of individuals or groups to assemble peacefully and to protect the freedom of expression that is inherently stated in the Constitution.

I oppose this bill as a musician and creative who sees SB 12 as crushing culture and the arts. Vote against this bill to preserve the rights inherent in a free society!

Phillip Brady-Joyner
Self, Advertising Planner
Austin, TX

This is a discriminatory bill disguised as protecting children, rooted in hate and desire to vilify an entire group of people and artists. Queer ppl and drag are not dangerous, and this hateful discrimination puts their livelihood and freedom of speech and freedom of expression at risk. And it's all based on a lie. I repeat — this is based on a lie and a false issue. If you can ban an entire art form just because you don't personally like it, then what's next? Film, painting, writing, television, murals? You can pretend this is about sexually explicit content, but it is not. It is about hate. This unconstitutional bill could be used to block things like pride parades and drag Queen story hours which is a breach of freedom of speech. And it is a breach of a parent's right to choose what content they DO want their children to engage with, and what art they believe is actually GOOD for their child to be exposed to. For MANY MANY Texan parents, that is the art of drag. Do not take away their rights to parent as they choose best for their children. Instead, spend time creating laws that will ACTUALLY protect children from harm.

Karole Fedrick
Texas Eagle Forum and Self
Austin, TX

I am commenting in favor of voting SB12 out of committee with expediency given to the process to get the bill to Calendars as quickly as possible. The narrative over this bill continues to be disingenuous at best. The bill will not effect adults giving or attending sexually oriented performances. This bill is about protecting children. It should be obvious to anyone who is truly concerned about the welfare of children that drag performances are meant to be sexual and expose children to adult sexual proclivities. Let adults do what adults do, but leave the children alone. Please vote SB12 out of committee.

Katherine Raney
Self. Program Specialist.
Bastrop, TX

I oppose this bill. Drag is an act of individual and collective expression and it belongs in Texas. It's never mandatory to attend a drag performance—those who oppose drag should exercise their free will and not attend those kinds of performances.

Nathan Walker
Self / Software Engineer
Taylor, TX

"a male performer exhibiting as a female" - y'all have to know this will never get past a first amendment challenge, so this is an obvious attempt to emotionally charge people who are uncomfortable with personal freedom of expression. As a Texan I am ashamed that my state legislature is so utterly incompetent in solving the actual problems facing our state that they feel they have to resort to such ridiculous dog whistles.

Jyllian Mitchell
Self, tech support
Austin, TX

Absurd, a violation of free speech.

Joshua Joshua Martinez
Self
HOUSTON, TX

I DO NOT support this bill

Sonya Richardson

Self

Sherman, TX

Please stop this madness! Children are not allowed in most bars and strip clubs - they do not need to be subjected to drag shows which are a sexually explicit show.

Laticia Rivera

Self

Hutto, TX

I've met with adults that were exposed to inappropriate sexuality and/or abuse as children and the majority of them don't want to speak out publicly about the trauma and shame they have carried. The common pattern among these individuals is that they trusted the adults and even cared deeply for them and thought the inappropriate behavior was an expression of affectionate and love. Please stand up for children. The sexual nature of these drag shows are fine for consenting adults but exposing children sets an alarming standard and give's impressionable youth the impression that it is normal to have adults conduct sexual behavior in their presence. It has the potential to awaken and ignite an expression of their sexuality before they have the maturity and awareness to respond in a safe manner. Also we are concerned for the community that is in favor of this exposure to children. They may genuinely believe it is harmless if done in public and not understand how the public may view them. While everyone should be granted respect and the ability to express themselves, dancing provocatively in front of minors may cause others to perceive this community in a way that would cause a further divide and escalate the tension that they have worked towards thus far. Contrary to popular opinion from the drag community, we do not hate them. We simply want protections in place. A decent society needs to have decent boundaries. Thank you all for your consideration.

Paul Russel

Self

Austin, TX

No to this bill. Drag is a legitimate art form and the artists represent no threat to children. The performances are contextual, in the same way that a circus clown is different from a fake blood covered clown at a haunted attraction. Artists are capable of adapting their art to create appropriate experiences for their audiences, and drag is no different from acting, dance, mime, or clowns. We should be encouraging art, not stifling or criminalizing it out of fear.

Linda Sulak, Mrs.

Self

Temple, TX

Dear Mr. Hugh Shine,

I am asking that you stop this bill and to stop drag shows. These drag shows have been hurting our children. Please protect our children from this.

Thank you so much and GOD BLESS.

Cameron Shaw

Self. Business owner/self-employed

Austin, TX

Where are the parents at? We've been saying for years. The parents are in charge of their children, and it is their duty to know what's best for them. It isn't the government's job to step into the role of parents, regardless whether it's a city government, the State of Texas, or the buckaroos in DC. Let families, and communities, decide what's best for them. There's no one-size-fits-all approach that results in the strongest, healthiest, and most resilient communities. Not in the classroom, not in the church. You can't legislate morality. Nor should we.

This bill is ill conceived. It would ban many Shakespeare plays, and many musicians and bands. The wording is broad and ripe for misuse. Also, drawing an arbitrary line about what's acceptable. Kids these days are growing up with widespread access to the internet. It's up to parents and role-models to teach them to navigate this world. They will see and encounter many things. We have one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy already. It's not because they saw a drag show, on TV or in person, it's because their parents haven't talked to them about why it's wise to wait, or they didn't trust their parent's advice. Parents need to talk to their children. Creating laws to "protect" children won't protect them if their parents aren't.

This is an extremely divisive bill. Dividing communities destroys the safety our kids need to grow up well. There's things we can do if we want to help the next generation - we can fund schools, pay for better teachers, and model responsible behavior, and be good stewards of the land, ensuring clean air and clean water. I'm 30, and I can tell ya - things have changed a lot since I grew up. There's all kinds of new pronouns and LGBTQ letters and all kinds of stuff that I don't really understand, or know much about. But, I know the kids do. If they feel the government targets them or their friends, classmates, or neighbors, how will they ever grow up to be responsible, dedicated citizens of this great country?

Come on now. This is Texas. We're supposed to believe in small government, local control, traditional conservative values... it's all going sideways because you're trying to force people with laws to behave some kind of way. That's not the way it works. If you want people to think like you, act like you, believe what you do, you've gotta earn em over. Model why it's better, don't smack em over the head and force em. Jesus didn't ever try to pass a law, he just walked out by the water and said Come Follow Me. It's up to the people to find the path, and there's all kinds of people and all kinds of paths. Keep the government out of it.

Annie Hsu

self/Executive Mgmt in Telco

Plano, TX

I want to protect kids but not through the filing and passage of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination.

Jordon Wilhite, Mrs

Grayson County Conservatives

Sadler, TX

Sexually oriented performances, that appeal to the prurient interests of adults, should never be performed in front of an audience of children.

Children ARE NOT sexual beings and CAN NOT give legal consent to sexual acts.

The state has a compelling interest to protect Texas children from sexualization.

Grayson County Conservatives strongly support SB 12.

Merilee Phillips

Self, estate sale employee

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose this vaguely worded, discriminatory bill, which criminalizes protected free speech and opens the door to discrimination and retaliation against trans people. Drag shows are harmless creative expression and do not need to be regulated. Please do not pass this bill, as it endangers gay and trans people who only want the right to be themselves.

Tiffany Frias

Self

Lubbock, TX

As a citizen of Texas, I DO NOT support this bill, or any other anti-LGBTQIA legislation being brought forward.

Since the start of Covid, Texas Politicians and "leaders" were very vocal about how government mandates, set for the safety of the general population, were "unconstitutional" and "impeaded the rights of our citizens". Now, those same people are all okay with stripping away the First Amendment Rights of Drag Performers and members of the LGBTQIA community! Texas leaders love to throw around following the Constitution during conversation about Gun Reform for the safety of our children, siting the Second Amendment. How is the Bill of Rights a defensive talking point for an object that takes lives, but means nothing when discussing how certain people express themselves?

Protecting the children is one of the biggest arguments that those who don't agree with drag. My 7 year old daughter has always been nervous to be around any one she doesn't know, even if her parents know the person. Not once has she ever felt the need to be scared of any of the Drag Queens she has met. She looks forward to Drag Storytime so much that I can't even tell her it's coming up until we are on our way. I have seen my little girl, who gets bullied at school for her weight, become confident, expressive, and learn how to love herself, even when others can't see how amazing she is. Drag Queens helped her with her self-confidence so much she refuses to let me pick out her clothes anymore. I have seen children come up and ask to take a picture with the "princess" they just met. Kids do not know hatred in their hearts until adults put it there.

It's always easy to judge and hate what you don't know or understand, but how many of you have actually attended a Drag event outside of a club performance. Drag can be so much more than lipsinging and dressing in the opposite genders clothes. It is expression. It is confidence. It is strength. It is acting. It is a performance. It is art. It is a lifestyle but, DRAG IS NOT A CRIME!

Nick Harpster, Dr.

LubbockPRIDE and self, Criminal Justice instructor

LUBBOCK, TX

This bill is an unconstitutional attempt to suppress the free speech and expression of all Texans and yet another threat to the civil rights of LGBTQ+ Texans. There is absolutely no reason to classify drag shows as adult entertainment and to be regulated like strip clubs. The fact that this also creates civil and criminal penalties clearly shows the intention of the government to impose strict censorship and overreach, even though the Governor and many others claim to want smaller government and less overreach. The protection of children is something that we all want, yet this is forcing parents into raising their children how the government wants them to be raised. Additionally, the fact that venues that do host drag events, that are more 'adult' in nature, are places where children are already not allowed, making this a bill in search of a problem; once again clearly showing the intention to silence and erase the LGBTQ+ community. By the government censoring and marginalizing the drag community and the LGBTQ+ community, it exacerbates the violent threats and actions against the drag community, which is already at an all-time high. It is not fair for the government to essentially sanction the commission of violence on the LGBTQ+ community by making a simple art form, a great form of expression (which is not a new phenomenon), and a source of power and pride for the LGBTQ+ community criminal, because a small minority of citizens don't like it. If they don't like it, they don't have to go to a drag show, or take their kids. Drag Queens and Kings are not dragging children into these venues to corrupt them. That is insane to even contemplate. When a governing body can't even protect kids from being killed by guns, don't try to limit something that is completely safe to children. Don't allow wild, unsubstantiated YouTube videos to sway your vote on this issue. Extremists find outliers to use as examples for things that they claim are common. When you look at the totality of the circumstances, and the reality and history of drag performances, it is clear that drag shows hurt no one. I urge you to vote against this bill, as this attempt to take pride and empowerment away from the drag and LGBTQ+ community is being made for disingenuous reasons. I question how many legislators have even attended a drag show. You should not be voting to dismantle something without having the full reality of the situation. A few outliers that want to eliminate something because it doesn't fit into their beliefs, is wrong. There is nothing harmful happening at any drag shows, children present or not, and is most definitely something that should not be criminalized by a state governing body. I respectfully ask that you vote against SB12, and continue to allow drag shows, which have been happening for over 200 years, without these unneeded restrictions that increase the fears of performers, patrons, and businesses. We need progress, not regression. Thank you.

Nancy Holder

Self

Belton, TX

Let our children experience at least a few short years of innocence, please. Let them be children.

Christine Lange, Mrs

Independent Christian Values

Temple, TX

Please do not allow drag queens, sexually oriented performances in public places or in the presence of children. In this country majority rules, and this is a very small population, a minority who is trying to groom our children

Barbara Gilbertson

Self

Belton, TX

Please stand strong for protecting our children against admiring drag queens and that life style. Thank you!

Marianne Rush

Self

Austin, TX

I firmly stand against this proposed bill. This is an unwarranted attack on human rights, and the rights of businesses. Horrific overreach from the government. Focus on real matters that are killing people every day and ban AK-15s immediately

Linda Wandt

Self/ Picture Framer & Arts Educator

Austin, TX

This bill is time wasting & ridiculous use of public money and resources trying to outlaw drag shows of any type. I oppose this bill on the grounds of it attacking queer communities. Drag in entertainment has been happening since Shakespearean plays, for goodness sake! Stop wasting time & money and focus on things that actually matter. Drag promotes embracing those different from the status quo. It teaches us to love our neighbors & embrace cultural variety. It's not a threat or lewd or anything negative. The language of this bill is an obvious manipulation - protecting children means showing them to accept all kinds of folks & to celebrate those with the courage to live as they feel. To accept & love themselves if *they* are different. To not bully and add cruelty to their world. This bill is hurtful, harmful, fascist nonsense & aims to make this state a worse, more dangerous place to live.

Alicia Bell, Mrs

Self and housewife

Kerrville, TX

I represent myself and I am FOR bill # SB12 and request passage out of committee immediately.

Kylar Walker

Equality Texas

Houston, TX

This bill is harmful to not only the LGBTQ+ community but to DRAG as an art form. Drag originates from the days of Shakespeare when men had to play women in a theatrical setting. This has since been adopted by the LGBTQ+ as freedom of expression. However it isn't just the LGBTQ+ community that enjoys drag, the entire public enjoys this art form. Businesses that host drag events are doing so to create a safe space for those who want to express themselves. Targeting drag is a direct attack on freedom of expression and those who are seen as "other".

J Canciglia

Self

Austin, TX

The committee substitute introduced today, on May 10, 2023, establishes an acceptable compromise compared to the bill's original language. I am therefore neutral on CSSB 12.

Originally, I believed the intent of this bill was to have a chilling effect on drag as an art form and profession, and to further cement the association between drag performers and the false accusation that they are harming children. I also believed that the intent of this bill was to make trans people afraid of going out into public. The final section of this bill about public performances in combination with the removed section regarding men dressed as women and women dressed as men would have been weaponized against trans people going about their day-to-day lives, as there are people who believe that the very existence of a trans person appeals to the prurient interest.

I am a trans person and a performer. I was born a woman, but see myself as a man. While some would see how I dress and think it is cross-dressing, I am not performing drag. How I dress is not a performance, and, when I perform, how I dress is not the subject nor focus of my performance, because I am trans, not a drag artist. My existence is not inherently sexual. I do not dress how I do to appeal to a prurient interest. Frankly, how I dress now is far more conservative as a trans man than it ever was as a woman. I dress as I do because it is what is most comfortable for me and how I dress is the way I dress all the time. I deserve to be able to go out in public -- to be able to go to the grocery store, the bookstore, the park, the library -- without the fear of being charged for a crime based on nothing other than how I dress when my dress would be perfectly acceptable for someone male to wear in public.

Ensuring that the committee substitute is incorporated into the final bill would do a lot to allay the anxieties that queer and trans Texans have about this bill. So, if this bill is to go forward, I am hoping that this version of the bill sticks.

Fern Mossman

self

Prosper, TX

Please support SB12

Clayton Cable

Self, medevac pilot for children

Corpus Christi, TX

Please support SB 12. Children are highly influenced by the actions they observe. As adults and/or parents it is our responsibility to protect, monitor, and filter what our children are exposed to. Sexually oriented performances are not something that children should be exposed to. This is common sense. It is clear and has been stated publicly that organizations and movements are targeting our children's minds. They are attempting to undermine the beliefs and values that parents wish to pass on to their children. We can not sit idly by and allow for this subversion to go on unchallenged and unrecognized. The innocence of children is something we should all cherish and fight to protect. It is sad that SB 12 had to be created and it is even more sad that it will likely not pass unanimously.

Robin Hayes

Eastland County Chair

Eastland, TX

We should be protecting our children. It is illegal for them to engage in pornographic materials, therefore they should not be allowed to engage in any type of sexually oriented performances. Thank you!

MONTIE SHELTON

none

Huntsville, TX

I am in favor of SB 12 because I firmly believe that children's innocence should be protected. Ask yourself, why do drag queens want to perform in front of children?

Jake Wilson
Self-CPA
Fort Worth, TX

I support SB 12 and I thank Senator Hughes for authoring it.

I agree with how the bill analysis describes the need for this bill:

"A recent cultural trend has been for drag shows to be performed in venues generally accessible to the public, including children. These shows often contain sexually explicit performances and music.

Texas is just one of over a dozen states considering legislation to stop such performances in front of children. These states have taken different approaches to the issue. Some would include these events in the definition of a sexually oriented business. Some would define these events as one of several types of "adult cabaret performances" that appeal to the prurient interest. Others define a "drag show" specifically.

S.B. 12 integrates aspects of these different proposals. The bill amends Chapter 43 of the Penal Code to define a "sexually oriented performance" as one (1) featuring nudity; (2) or a male performer exhibiting as a female or a female performer exhibiting as a male; and (3) appealing to the prurient interest in sex. The bill goes on to address sexually oriented performances in two types of settings: (1) on public property; and (2) in commercial establishments. In both settings, the goal is to protect children from seeing these performances.

Municipalities are authorized to regulate sexually oriented performances to promote the public health, safety, or welfare of their communities. S.B. 12 says explicitly that a municipality may not authorize a sexually oriented performance on public property or in the presence of a child. The bill is not intended to stop theatrical or other similar exhibitions. Municipalities are authorized to regulate such shows as they see fit.

While drag shows have received the most media attention, S.B. 12 is not limited to this type of sexually oriented performance. Drag shows today may be replaced by other types of harmful performances in the future. S.B. 12 applies to and will protect children from sexually oriented performances in general."

Please pass SB 12. Thank You.