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To: [Board of Education](#)
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Subject: Are Drag Queens in Public Schools Appropriate?
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The issue of whether drag performances are harmful or wholesome has been hotly debated amongst elected officials, school board trustees and the public at large.

But, let's be clear, the injection of drag queens into children's consciousness goes beyond innocently sitting in a classroom reading storybooks. Kids are being brought to performances that are marketed as kid-friendly, despite being, in many cases, sexually explicit. I don't think it's appropriate for kids to be exposed to any of this any more than a child should be taken to a strip club or restaurant chain that is known for revealing staff uniforms.

Those who defend drag shows as harmless entertainment have often framed critics as driven by anti-gay sentiments. But calling out the grooming aspect of this behavior has nothing to do with drag queens being gay. If anything, many gay people have long fought negative and false stereotypes about being sexual predators, and the last thing they should want to do is resurface those fears.

We might want to ask ourselves, if these were instead women dancing provocatively, giving lap dances, and removing their clothing in front of child onlookers, what would staff and fellow audience members think? I'm certain they would be disgusted and appalled. The dancers would surely be asked to leave, and there is a high probability that Child Protective Services would be called on parents, as well.

Encouraging children to touch strangers in areas of the body that are usually covered by undergarments and desensitizing kids to overt depictions of adult sexuality is dangerous territory. Do we really want to go there?

Our children are not props. Children are not to be used for political statements or for showing off that one is open-minded and "hip." The fact that some parents see no issue and support this trend is where the focus of discussion should be.

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