

Testimony Before the Hennepin County Library Committee

May 6, 2020

My name is Barb Anderson and I am on the board of the Child Protection League. I am speaking in opposition to Drag Queen Story Hour in our libraries. It's hard to believe that anyone would even consider having drag queens, who are often paid entertainers in adult X-rated clubs, entertain young children.

Where is the dignity and good taste? These hairy, scary men who dress up like exaggerated caricatures of women—with their obscene dress and actions—are an *insult* to females. Is this how we want our young children to view women—as garish and twisted, disguised men? At a time when we teach our children respect for women, drag queens make a mockery of females. The sexual fantasies of these men will be visually imprinted on the minds of our precious little ones forever. This is horrible imagery for children.

Drag queens are confusing to children. Is it a man? Is it a woman? What is it? These are people that children should stay away from—not be taught to befriend them.

Good character must be modeled to young children. Kids imitate what they see. Is this what we want them to imitate?

Children look to trusted adults for approval of what they see around them. Will they see their trusted librarians laughing and nodding in approval to this spectacle of absurdity?

Someone once said, "I think of a child's mind as a blank book. During the first years of his life, much will be written on the pages. The quality of that writing will affect his life profoundly."

I am appealing to reason and common sense. The writings on the pages of a child's mind by drag queens is the stuff of nightmares. Their minds and emotions are fragile. Your actions will shape their future. Please make it a positive one and *discontinue* the Drag Queen Story Hour.

Thank you.