

Senate Education Committee

Testimony on HB 96, May 12 2025

Amelia Elise Sage Green

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

My name is Amelia, and I am a married transgender woman who plans to raise children here in Ohio. I am here to speak in strong opposition to Sec. 3375.47 of HB96 that would force libraries to segregate books and materials related to sexual orientation or gender identity from general view.

This provision is not just misguided—it is a violation of parental rights. As a future parent, it should be my right—not the government’s—to decide how and when I introduce my children to stories about people like their parents, their friends, and potentially themselves. Ironically, this bill is being championed by members of a party that claims to stand for parental freedom. That freedom, apparently, does not extend to parents like me.

What’s more, this provision implies—wrongly and offensively—that materials involving LGBTQ+ people are inherently inappropriate or pornographic. That is not just misinformation; it is bigotry. LGBTQ+ children and families exist. We are part of your communities, and we deserve to see our lives reflected in the public institutions we all support—especially in our libraries.

As written, this bill would mean that I may have to take my children past actual adult material just to find a simple picture book about a kid with two moms, or a young adult novel with a trans protagonist. That is absurd. Queer stories are not adult content—they are human content.

On top of all of that, this mandate would place an additional burden on Ohio’s already underfunded and overstretched public library system. Staff will be expected to evaluate,

categorize, and physically rearrange collections based on vague, politicized criteria. That is not only impractical—it diverts resources from the essential work libraries already struggle to do.

This provision is nothing but bigotry disguised as an attempt to protect children. It will harm families like mine, children like mine, and the public institutions we all rely on. Please do not allow fear and prejudice to dictate policy. I urge you to remove this provision from the bill.

Thank you for your time, I welcome any questions.