

Trans Unity Coalition

House Bill 96 Testimony to the Senate Education Committee, May 11 2025

Bree Taylor, Founder & Executive Director

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chairman Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members Cutrona, Huffman, Koehler, and Smith of the Senate Education Committee, I appreciate this opportunity to publicly speak regarding HB 96.

My name is Bree Taylor, I am blessed by she/her pronouns, and I founded and serve as executive director to the transgender advocacy non-profit Trans Unity Coalition.

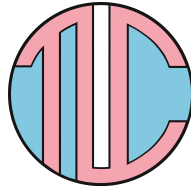
Over the past month, our team has been providing awareness to several of the provisions contained in House Bill 96. We have often heard that many are not even aware that these provisions exist, which unfortunately includes both members of the public as well as our lawmakers. As a 4,063 page bill, one amended with an additional 1,018 page omnibus with under 24 hours of committee life and House passage under 72 hours, it is wholly understandable that many impactful, dangerous components could be snuck in through just a handful of sentences among the many pages and go unnoticed, such as one I am about to mention today. With no practical time for the public to voice concern, it calls to question the acting leadership, not a question of success, but one of transparency and loyalty to the public.

But that was the House. And this is the Senate.

Line Items 65565 through 65569, defining Section 3375.47, refer to requiring public libraries to relocate books and other materials in hidden 18+ sections should they discuss sexual orientation or gender identity. It should be noted that this does not even define a specific type of orientation or identity, merely that it brings up the two concepts. Straight, gay, cisgender, transgender, and anything with similar theme. Equally censored from viewership, due to the false myth that such topics somehow do not apply to minors.

As a person who was questioning her nature at a young age, and yes, as a minor, I will be clear: more children are queer than you think. The Movement Advancement Project, Williams Institute, GLADD, and Human Rights Campaign through major surveys have shown that anywhere between 7-9.5% of American youth are LGBTQ+. The American Academy of Pediatrics, as one of many major pediatric associations who are openly vocal in support of affirming gender and orientation, have spoken out against harmful policies such as this one on grounds that 42% of queer youth make an attempt on their own lives. Can you imagine that experience as a parent?

In the time it took to share this testimony, that is four new households with that experience. Four children almost lost. Scale that up to every day, or week.



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Books are an outlet, an escape. A children's book isn't going to turn a kid gay or trans, but it will bring comfort to a kid who already is. Forcing books of this kind into 18+ sections does not have the impact you might think. Here's what is really does:

1. For purposes of a budget bill, state-level requirement of re-cataloguing and relocating all pertinent books adds more cost. It is extra workload on top of current needs: ask any librarian how busy they already are. The only working solution is to request more funds down the line.
2. For queer children and teens, it causes psychological harm. It imposes this idea that orientation and identity are shameful ideas. They are not. They are part of each person just that the majority of people before me are likely heterosexual and cisgender.

In the name of education, please reconsider this provision. On behalf of myself and the many who did not feel safe to send testimony, please, we implore you to remove this and all other harmful provisions which will hurt Ohio's transgender community. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Bree Taylor; May 11, 2025