

Prepared Testimony of Cookie Dixon
Before the Education Committee
Hearing On House Bill no.96
May 14th, 2025

Good Morning Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns.

My name is Cookie Dixon. I am here on behalf of the transgender community; of myself, of my loved ones, and of the many others still in schools that will be affected by this. I didn't come out as trans until I was 18, right at the end of my high school years. But even before then, it was still a fact of my life that I had yet to come to terms with.

Queer books were an essential part of my self discovery. It helped me fully understand queer identity from the perspective of a real queer person, rather than the watered down viewpoint I had previously heard from the straight, cisgender adults in my life. It made me feel seen, and it helped me finally understand who I was.

If I didn't have access to these resources, I would've been in college by the time I figured it out myself, and even then I'm not sure I would have made it that far in my life. Restricting these resources hurts queer children who were in the same place I was; I had no sense of self and was ready to completely give up before I began exploring my gender identity.

This also continues to perpetuate the harmful idea that queer people are obscene, something to be hidden from the eyes of children, a thinly veiled attempt at pushing us back out of the sight of the public as our mere existence continues to be illegalized.

This can continue to be proven with another provision in House Bill 96, one mirroring the Trump Administration's executive order only recognizing Male and Female sex designations. Not only is this harmful as it entirely excludes trans and non-binary individuals, it is outright scientifically incorrect. This has an extremely large oversight of excluding intersex individuals, those born with genitals seen as abnormal or chromosomes that do not line up with the average XX or XY chromosomes.

The amount of intersex people in the population has been estimated to be as high as 1.7%, which is over three times more than the estimated 0.5% of the population who is trans. Not only is this provision a clear attack on my community, it catches even more in the crossfire. This sends a message that their existence is irrelevant, and entirely unworthy of recognition.

As part of the Education Committee, you understand that it is your responsibility, and your duty to make a safe educational environment. One where all students can feel valued and respected, one where they can be seen for who they are regardless of identity. Supporting measures such as these continues to perpetuate exclusion and discrimination.

I am only 20 years old. I have my entire life ahead of me. Queer children currently in schools have their entire lives ahead of them. I hope you can allow us to live our lives as who we truly are. I hope you can see the strife this will cause, how much hardship has already been caused by laws and bills like this.

I, and all the other queer people in this room, beg of you. Please, let us live.

Thank you.