



### ***Testimony Opposing House Bill 96***

Submitted to the Ohio Senate Education Committee

By Ciara Rayne Keeton, Transgender Veteran & Former Healthcare Provider

**Date:** 13MAY2025

Chairmen Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG** opposition to House Bill 96.

My name is Ciara Rayne Keeton, and I am a Transgender Ohio, a Veteran of the United States Navy, and a Former Healthcare provider. I served this country with honor and spent years of my life delivering care to sailors and marines from all backgrounds and walks of life. I am testifying today because this bill WILL do harm to our youth, to people like me, and because I continue to stand for the values I swore to uphold when I entered into service.

As a transgender Ohioan, I know full well what it's like to grow up without seeing yourself reflected in the society around you. I do not recall any positive stories about people like me, and that silence was deafening and painful. It delayed my understanding and deeply isolated me.

House Bill 96 would work to institutionalize that very same isolation. Censoring these books isn't going to protect children, it is sending them a message that they are too evil to be acknowledged. That message is not only wrong, it is dangerous.

During my Time in Healthcare, I saw firsthand the impact of support and affirmation on the mental and physical health of those whose care was entrusted to me. I followed science, not fear or politics. The science, by the way, is crystal clear: when transgender youth are supported and affirmed, their mental health outcomes improve drastically. When they're rejected, and neglected, these outcomes worsen and can lead to loss of life.

The "binary-only" sex designation policies in this bill are not based in modern medicine, they are based in ideology. They deny the existence of trans, nonbinary, and intersex people in ways that have real, tangible, and lasting harm. Harm, that you are directly responsible for, should you move forward in support of this bill.



**In conclusion,**

As a transgender veteran and former healthcare provider, I urge you to vote **NO** on House Bill 96. This bill endangers LGBTQ+ youth by isolating them, censoring their stories, and denying their existence. It is abject cruelty wearing the costume of protection. It is unnecessary, and it is wrong.

We should be doing all in our power to make our schools and libraries safer and more inclusive, not less. Every child in Ohio deserves to feel safe, represented, and respected.

Thank you for your time and for your public service.

Respectfully,  
Ciara Rayne Keeton  
She/Her  
Kettering, Ohio