

Senate Finance Committee Testimony

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Good morning,

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and all other members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for this opportunity. My name is Anna Goure. I am a 42-year-old, cisgender queer woman. I was raised by my single mother in rural Ohio. I work full time as a software developer. I am an A student pursuing a master's degree in public administration at Franklin University and in my spare time, I volunteer with the nonprofit, Trans Unity Coalition.

Now I, myself, am not a trans person. However, I am in love with one. And wouldn't you do everything you could to protect the people you love?

My girlfriend, Ciara is a transgender woman. And when she transitioned, I saw a deep-seated veil of years of depression lift off of her. I saw her completely bloom with happiness. Her joy from finally living her life as her authentic self has brought us closer than ever before.

I am here today to protect that joy, as well as her civil liberties and the civil liberties of all our gender diverse community here in Ohio, which are under attack under H.B. 96.

As it is written, Section 333.13 would cut Medicaid funding from mental healthcare providers that provide "social gender transition." A recent national survey showed that LGBTQ+ youth are 40% more likely to consider suicide (TTP, 2023). This attacks mental healthcare access of Ohio's most vulnerable populations, potentially drowning out their only avenue out of suicidal ideation.

It would cut all funding for youth homeless shelters that promote "social gender transition." Trans youth would have no where to go but the streets, funneling them directly into human trafficking or drug addiction. The City of Columbus lost 1 million dollars in funding for homeless shelters due to a presidential executive order, lawsuit pending (Juravich, 2025). That's a lot of cuts for all the unhoused population in our capital city alone.

Section 9.05 incorrectly defines gender based on flawed definitions of sex as stated in Trump's Executive order, while completely ignoring this country's population of intersex people. Does Ohio want to enshrine these same scientifically inaccurate, biologically flawed policies in our state budget?

This bill would force librarians to sort through and remove any books containing gender identity or sexual orientation and place them in an 18 or older section as if gender ideas are some sort of hardcore pornography.

Imagine if this was happening to someone you love, your friend, your family, partner or to you. That your civil liberties were being stripped away by the minute. That you aren't allowed to exist Ohio's public bathrooms, on athletic fields, or even as an idea in a public library. And with this bill you can no longer exist in mental healthcare facilities or homeless shelters. I ask you, where are we supposed to go? Where is it safe for me and the love of my life to be allowed to exist, and follow our constitutional right to pursue happiness?

There have been over 850 Anti-LGBTQ+ bills filed this year alone across America (Reed, 2025). And Ohio is adding to the count with the budget bill.

Kentucky Governor Beshear said he made the choice to protect "all God's children" by signing an executive order to ban conversion therapy, later overturned by the Senate (Schneider, 2025). Governor DeWine also chose to protect the fragile rights of transgender youth by vetoing H.B. 68, the healthcare ban on trans youth, also later overturned (Henry, 2024). Now, you have the chance to make a choice today.

Be better than this, Ohio. Choose to do better. Please choose to remove this hateful exclusionary language out of Ohio's Budget bill to help protect the few remaining freedoms that transgender people have left in this state.

Thank you.

References

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