

Hello, my name is Sylvia Traw and I was born and raised in northeast Ohio. I am addressing you all today because of my serious concerns regarding the proposed state budget and the changes it would impose. Not only does it target some of the most vulnerable communities in our state, stripping funding from programs, resources, and medical support that are life saving for queer people and queer children, but it also targets education and labor organizing, both of which need the support of our state government now more than ever. Queer representation has been proven time and time again to have no power over “changing” or harming adults or children, so instead of needlessly stripping rights and resources away from businesses and individuals, I want my legislators to focus on real threats to our citizens and children. That is why I want my tax dollars to fund education, and libraries, and research, especially as someone who relied so much on these resources growing up in a low income household. We didn’t have the money for lots of outings or trips, but we went to the library and I was able to develop a love for reading and learning, a love that stayed with me, and it’s because of these early resources that I was able to get accepted to and attend an Ivy League university. At the end of the day, this budget is incredibly flawed, and I believe that we can do better than this and create a budget that supports Ohioans and prioritizes their well being, health, and futures.