

**Testimony in Opposition to HB 96: State Budget  
Submitted by Molly Rampe Thomas  
Founder & CEO, JustChoice | Board President, Abortion Forward  
Senate Finance Committee Hearing**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to House Bill 96. My name is Molly Rampe Thomas, and I am the Founder and CEO of JustChoice, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring equitable access to reproductive healthcare and family preservation. I also serve as Board President of Abortion Forward, a coalition advocating for policies that protect bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom in Ohio.

HB 96 is more than a budget—it is a vehicle for policies that are medically unsound, ideologically extreme, and constitutionally suspect. It puts Ohioans' health and dignity at risk. I urge you to consider the following:

**1. “Success Sequence” Curriculum Funding**

The budget allocates funds to schools promoting abstinence-only “Success Sequence” curricula, which omit medically accurate, age-appropriate sexual health education. This rebranded approach ignores evidence-based strategies to reduce STIs and unintended pregnancies.

**Ask:** Remove funding for this harmful and mis-informed curriculum.

**2. Tax Credit for Anti-Abortion Crisis Pregnancy Centers**

HB 96 creates a \$750 tax credit for donations to crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs), entities that disseminate misinformation, coerce pregnant people, and oppose abortion. No other nonprofits receive such preferential treatment.

**Ask:** Eliminate this discriminatory tax credit.

**3. Elimination of the Child Tax Credit**

The removal of Governor DeWine's proposed \$1,000/child tax credit disproportionately harms low-income families. Meanwhile, wealthy donors to CPCs are prioritized.

**Ask:** Reinstate the child tax credit to support all families.

**4. Burdensome Abortion Reporting Requirements**

HB 96 mandates monthly public dashboards and expanded abortion data collection, violating patient privacy and weaponizing information against providers. These requirements conflict with Ohio's Reproductive Freedom Amendment and the Guttmacher Institute's updated guidance opposing mandatory reporting.

**Ask:** Remove these invasive, unconstitutional provisions.

**5. State Recognition of Only Two “Unchangeable” Sexes**

This unscientific, transphobic language erases transgender Ohioans and contradicts medical consensus.

**Ask:** Remove this discriminatory policy.

## **6. Defunding of Gender-Affirming Youth Shelters**

Denying funding to shelters that affirm transgender homeless youth will endanger lives.

**Ask:** Protect vulnerable youth by stripping this provision.

## **7. \$20 Million for Anti-Abortion “Parenting and Pregnancy” Programs**

CPCs already receive millions in taxpayer funds. Redirect this \$20 million to *actual* healthcare providers offering nonjudgmental care.

*At JustChoice, our team includes a licensed medical director, and we offer free, medically sound early pregnancy care—including all-options counseling. That means every person we serve gets accurate information about abortion, parenting, and adoption. When adoption is the safest path, we support it through ethical practices, not coercion. Public funds should go to providers who offer evidence-based, compassionate, and comprehensive care—not ideologically driven centers that deny people choices.*

**Ask:** Eliminate CPC funding and invest in evidence-based services or direct aid to pregnant people in need.

## **8. Restrictive Doula Medicaid Coverage**

Limiting doula reimbursement to \$500,000/year and six counties will exacerbate Ohio’s maternal mortality crisis, particularly for Black women.

**Ask:** Fully fund doula care for all Medicaid recipients.

## **9. Defunding Mental Health Providers Affirming Trans Patients**

Denying Medicaid reimbursement to providers who respect transgender patients’ dignity blocks critical care for a marginalized community.

**Ask:** Remove this cruel and discriminatory policy.

## **10. Ban on Medicaid DEI Initiatives**

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are essential to addressing racial disparities in healthcare outcomes.

**Ask:** Retain DEI funding to improve culturally competent care.

## **11. Elimination of Continuous Medicaid Enrollment for Children**

Continuous enrollment from birth to age three ensures stability during a critical developmental period.

**Ask:** Reinstate this life-saving program.

HB 96 prioritizes ideology over the wellbeing of Ohioans. Its provisions violate the Ohio Constitution, endanger public health, and target marginalized communities. Our state budget must reflect the values of compassion, evidence, and justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Molly Rampe Thomas  
Founder & CEO, JustChoice / Board President, Abortion Forward  
[molly@justchoice.org](mailto:molly@justchoice.org)  
419.308.2303