

Dear Ohio Legislature,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed budget bill HB 96. It is a frankly abhorrent attack on human rights in many forms – that all have very little to do with the budget itself. Firstly, the law is criminalizing trans folks for having IDs that match their gender. Trans folks LOOK like their actual gender, not their biological sex. You are marking people as targets for harassment when you are forcing them to have a label that does not match who they are. Just take a look at how many people have been beaten up for using the bathroom because they are masculine appearing cisgender women. You do not care about the safety of women. You care about being able to harm others.

It is NOT A CRIME to have an ID that matches WHO YOU ARE. You cannot erase trans people with a law. You cannot erase people who have existed for centuries. You cannot erase biology that creates transgender, intersex and nonbinary people. You are just trying to hurt the people you are supposed to represent.

As a born and raised citizen of Ohio, I wholeheartedly oppose this bill. I oppose the redefinition of “sex” to “strictly” male and female. I oppose restricting supports for LGBTQ+ youth, allowing higher levels of lead in drinking water, and restricting health care funds, support and programs (pretty rich coming from the “pro-life” party ... seems like you’re more interested in killing people). I oppose the restrictions on collective bargaining units. I oppose reducing the state board of education members. I oppose changing the allocation of cannabis tax revenue (going against what the people of Ohio voted for). I oppose giving more wealth to the rich (and by extension taking it FROM the poor). I oppose cuts to public services and public benefit services. These programs are in place for the people YOU HAVE FAILED. As government officials, you should be building a society where these programs become unnecessary – people are able to receive the education that prepares them for jobs that allow them to make enough money to live. Instead, you are dismantling the systems that allow few people to achieve that – and then taking away the support for those who never had access to those things in the first place.

You should be ashamed that this bill has even been proposed. And you should do everything in your power to prevent it from passing into law.

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