

H.B 96 Testimony

Mika Clark

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez and Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and the members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee. My name is Mika Clark, and I am a concerned citizen who will be significantly impacted by House Bill 96, and I oppose it to any degree that is possible.

As a Transgender Ohioan I shouldn't have to worry about me getting arrested simply because of who I am. House Bill 96 would require legal sex to be defined as "biological sex" and require me to get a new ID otherwise I would be given a misdemeanor simply because of the fact that my gender doesn't align with what the state deems okay. I am not someone who decided this for myself, as I have gone through countless mental evaluations, as well as medical evaluations for Gender Dysphoria, and all have come back that I have Gender Dysphoria and that transitioning is the only treatment to help.

House Bill 96 would force other people like me to go into the closet, and cause their mental health to deteriorate. If a person has nowhere to go, they can do some pretty harmful things to themselves, and that's what this bill will do. It will cause harm to the Ohio transgender community and will result in even more state resources being used for mental health services when they are already at their limit.

In addition, House Bill 96 would cut funding for people with disabilities and those who are neurodivergent. As a person with Autism, this concerns me as the agenda this chamber wants to support handouts to billionaires instead of the people who need it the most. Why are we funding a football stadium, when that money could be used to help people with disabilities find jobs? Or better yet, that money could be used to help those who are homeless and LGBTQ,

which this bill also takes away funding for. I am seeing my tax dollars go to a state that wants to take away my rights, and give it to people who don't need the help.

And there is still more! House Bill 96 will also decrease funding for mental health services. It will also prevent public workers from striking, allow higher levels of LEAD in my drinking water and alter the course of what people voted for back in 2023 and divert cannabis tax revenue from social justice and community programs.

If this bill passes, millions and I mean MILLIONS of Ohioans will be affected negatively. The state I grew up in wants to take away the rights from citizens that have been kicked down enough. We as Ohioans say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! Look around the room and see how many people showed up today to oppose this bill. That should be enough evidence to show that Ohioans do not want this budget.

I give thanks for the opportunity to appear before you, and I am more than glad to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.