

Transgender provisions in budget bill

I am strongly against the provisions of the budget bill that would criminalize transgender persons and require that their biological sex be listed on state IDs. I am struggling to understand how this provision affects the budget and in general how this provision is in the public interest. How does it provide a benefit to non-transgender persons? It seems to be a harmful and hateful provision aimed at a small marginalized group of our society. Are you trying to eliminate persons who identify as transgender like the Nazis wanted to eliminate persons who identified as Jewish? Is this who we are as Ohioans and Americans? I have lived in Ohio my entire life, I never thought I would ever wish I lived in another country or state but I do now.

Have you heard the statement be careful who you hate it could be someone you love. How will you feel if someone in your family identifies as LGBTQ+? How would you feel if they were suicidal and were successful, or were afraid they would need to flee the country to live as who they are? If they were concerned they could be seized and sent to detention center or deported to a foreign prison? How would you feel if every time you parted with them you wondered if you would ever see them again? Would you have ever imagined this could happen in the United States of America? This is happening now to transgender persons and the people who love them. I live in fear for my child, this is my new reality. Do you honestly believe people choose to be transgender? Who would make such a choice considering the persecution inflicted on them and it is getting worse on a daily basis?

Please eliminate this harmful provision, let the Ohio legislature show some compassion and let transgender persons retain the freedom to live as their true selves.