

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the State Finance Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Alex Fay, I am a registered nurse who works and lives in Cleveland.

I am here to strongly urge the committee to reject the anti-trans language that are in the state budget bill, HB 96, including redefining sex as “biological sex”. This language will have direct, harmful impacts on our trans and non-binary community members and will have no positive impacts on our state. ng for gender-affirming care.

As a nurse who works in a community clinic, many of my patients are trans or non-binary. Many have updated their legal name and gender marker to reflect their identity, and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. This bill will marginalize trans Ohioans, forcing them to choose between documentation that misgenders and dehumanizes them or go without proper documentation. Not only that, our economy will suffer due to people avoiding Ohio for vacation, education, and events. If students are not able to be respected and valued by the state they are studying in, why would they choose to go to an Ohio state school if they could go to one in another state that validates and protects them? Why will families, especially those with trans family members, come to Ohio for vacation if they risk their ID not being validated? This language will harm the health and the economy of our state. Please reject any language that redefines sex as “biological sex”, changes license requirements for trans individuals, or otherwise marginalizes and stigmatizes the trans community.

Alex Fay, BSN, RN