

## **Testimony Opposing Redefinition of Legal Sex in Ohio Budget Bill**

My name is Elayne, and I'm a transgender Ohioan currently in the process of updating my ID to reflect my legal name and gender. This bill would criminalize that effort. It would force me—and so many others—to carry identification that fundamentally misrepresents who we are.

This isn't about politics or semantics. It's about safety, dignity, and the right to move through the world without fear. When my ID doesn't match my appearance, it outs me against my will. It invites harassment. It makes routine tasks—like picking up a package, entering a bar, or interacting with police—not just stressful, but dangerous.

No one should be punished for having an ID that reflects their lived reality. Trans, nonbinary, and intersex people already face disproportionate barriers to care, employment, and housing. This bill would only make life harder, crueler, and less safe for us.

I urge you to reject this harmful language. Let us live as ourselves, legally and truthfully.

Thank you for your time.

Elayne Allen