

Hello, my name is Rowan Doyle and I live in Summit County. I'm reaching out to oppose any budget language that redefines 'sex' as 'biological sex.' This harms trans, nonbinary, and intersex Ohioans, and it does not belong in our state's budget. Please reject this cruel and unnecessary provision. Much like SB1 will and has caused trans students to not choose Ohio for universities, this bill will signal to the country that trans and nonbinary people aren't welcome in Ohio and cause people to move away. I personally will have to talk with my partner about leaving, and people will be making decisions about avoiding flights through here, concerts, sporting events, and other travel opportunities if they aren't going to be respected as themselves.

This will turn any interaction I have with the government in any capacity into a terrifying ordeal; do I wear clothing that represents who I truly am and get harassed for not presenting in a certain way? Will I be asked to "prove" somehow that I'm a certain biological sex? As we've seen in other states recently, this type of gender policing defaults to stereotyping about people not looking a certain gender stereotype being harassed, regardless of their gender identity. Is that the kind of society we want to build, where people are shamed into looking and acting a certain way, instead of celebrating the amazing differences of humans? I was told growing up that our greatest strength as a country was accepting those who were different, promising equal rights under the law, and when I left Ohio, people remarked on the politeness and friendliness of our state and its people; this couldn't be more of a rejection of those values.

This bill also strips away key supports for LGBTQ+ youth shelters. 28% of LGBTQ+ youth have experienced homelessness and they make up up to 40% of the homeless youth population. Additionally, this bill seeks to force libraries to remove all LGBTQ+ content from minors; a terrifying censorship. I found myself reflected in characters as I read, and that helped me feel less alone. As I learned more about myself, stories of other people who had gone through experiences helped me figure things out easier, without having to struggle as much. It didn't make me queer, it helped me empathize with people when I didn't think I was queer, and helped me understand myself when I learned that I was. This ruling may also close libraries, like it did in Idaho; if a library can't segregate material, it will be forced to close.

This bill has other provisions that horrify; allowing higher levels of lead when there is *no* safe amount of lead in drinking water, changing the will of the people in regards to cannabis tax revenue, undermining collective bargaining rights for workers, changing the income tax to benefit high-earners while stripping money out of the Ohio budget, fragmenting co-ordination between social services like Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF, and cutting money to public education, childcare, and healthcare to benefit corporate and billionaire interests.