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Columbus, Ohio

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To the Ohio State Senate, Finance Committee, and its constituents,

Hello, at your behest I am reaching out in my testimony as an opponent to H.B. 96. The "Ohio Budget Bill" a misnomer at best, given some of its contents...

I will keep this brief. I was born and raised in Tuscarawas County, worked on the family farm till I was eighteen. Brought up in a Conservative Pentecostal household to lifelong Republicans. I understand hard work, stringent budgeting, and most importantly conservative values... And I am a transexual. So, what doesn't make sense to me is this "Budget Bill" and what it has to do with the reclassification of gender vs biological sex on one's identification. How does this help our state's budget? Over the last decade now, the Republican party has stated they only care about facts and truth while ignoring the scientific and medical information presented before them. The party of anti-science, the party of fear... I have been transitioning since a teenager and I've found a happy life as a woman. Where most people in my life have only ever known me as a woman. By passing this bill, you will make the expression of one's ID not matching "Biological Sex" a misdemeanor. Who we are becomes a crime, the cruelty being the point... I believe something about the 8th amendment speaks against cruel and unusual punishment and to me that is what this is. Cruel and unusual punishment of a disenfranchised group. Most of you don't care though... So, let me hit you where it hurts. In your pocket books...

You will hurt the tourist economy of the state. Enrollment in state colleges will take a hit. Effecting small and big business alike within college towns. Trans people, their friends and their families, will not want to stay or even drive through the state. No concerts, sports matches, etc... They will not want to own business in the state, they will not want to work in the state. This bill will hurt business, simple as that. The state of Ohio will be lumped by the general populous of the U.S.A with the likes

of Florida, Mississippi, and Texas. A state of illiterates to be ignored. "Fly over states." And regardless of your feelings on us you still want our money. The logistics alone of enforcing this policy would also be a financial nightmare. Mismanagement, poor financial allocation, and administrative confusion. With no clear plan, would end up wasting more money than this bill claims to save.

Thousands of transgender Ohioans who have updated their identification markers would become guilty of a misdemeanor in the span of hours simply for existing. Thousands of transgender Ohioans within the eyes of the state would become criminals. By passing this bill with no clear legal path. Every last one of you would not only have blood on your hands but, would also open yourselves and the state up to countless civil rights lawsuits going forward. With a legal precedence set by Orr V. Trump with affiliation of the ACLU in Massachusetts state courts.

In closing, I ask that you vote no on the budget bill or seek to amend it. Just leave trans people out of it.

Thank you,