

Hello, my name is Vincent Schumacher and I live in Franklin County, Columbus, Ohio. I am asking Senator Hearsel F Craig and all other Senators to oppose any budget language that redefines 'sex' as 'biological sex.' This harms trans, intersex, and nonbinary Ohioans and it does not belong in our state's budget. Our state budget should not be used for discrimination. Please reject this cruel and unnecessary provisions. I and all the other transgender and nonbinary citizens of this state just want our basic human rights to exist and live as we are.

The bill includes provisions to stop funding youth homeless shelters that specifically assist LGBTQ+ individuals and families as well as language that decreases funding for harm reduction efforts. The bill also mandates that all materials with LGBTQ+ content be made inaccessible to minors in public libraries. Lastly, the bill seeks to prohibit the display of Pride flags on government buildings, limiting visible support for the LGBTQ+ community. The state budget should not be used to erase minorities from public eye, limit access to people in need, and limit our freedom of expression.

The bill proposes restructuring the State Board of Education by eliminating 11 elected positions and reducing the number of appointed members to 5. This shift could centralize control and diminish public representation in educational policymaking. It already has poor representation but cutting the members by this much would ruin public representation even more.

The bill alters the distribution of marijuana tax revenues, diverting promised funds away from previously designated social justice and community programs.

The bill permits higher levels of lead in our drinking water. The bill restricts Medicaid reimbursement for doula services to only 6 counties with the highest infant mortality rates, potentially limiting access to these services in other regions. The bill also significantly decreases funding for mental health care programs and harm reduction efforts.

The bill undermines collective bargaining rights for workers, prohibits faculty and staff at public universities from striking, and restricts the number of hours state employees are allowed to work from home. It's a huge injustice punishing the average working citizen from receiving fair working conditions, compensation, and their rights to protest.

The budget introduces a 2.75% flat income tax, reducing rates for individuals earning over \$102,400. This change disproportionately benefits higher-income individuals while offering minimal relief to lower-income residents. The shift may also reduce state revenue, potentially impacting funding for essential public services. This just helps the rich get richer and it should not be passed while the average citizen can't even afford to pay rent in most places. I have to live with three roommates to afford to live in my city on a \$16.25 an hour full time salary. The wealthy need to pay their fair share of taxes.

The bill arbitrarily reduces funding for essential services, including public education, childcare, healthcare, and food assistance programs. Simultaneously, it allocates substantial funds—reportedly a \$600 million handout—to billionaire interests. HB96 maintains provisions

that will likely impede the coordination and efficiency of public benefit systems, including Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and WIC. The bill's language could lead to fragmented services, making it even more challenging for individuals to access comprehensive support.

Please vote against this bill. It will ruin this state and harm hundreds of thousands of people. It's unconstitutional, inhumane, discriminatory, and a horrible use of our tax dollars.

Sincerely,

Vincent Schumacher.