

AJ Brekke

Regarding HB 96

My name is AJ Brekke, and I am a concerned Ohioan and student at Wright State University. I am testifying on how the language used in HB 96 is discriminatory against our most vulnerable Ohioans. This bill would create one of the most restrictive ID laws in the country, and it only serves to harm Ohioans. To begin, the definition of "sex" outlined in the bill is biologically inaccurate, as any competent doctor or biologist could point out. It completely ignores intersex individuals, who make up almost 2% of the human population, which is about the same percentage of people who have green eyes or red hair. Intersex individuals do not fit within this definition of sex outlined within the bill. So, where does that leave them? What are they meant to do? Additionally, the redefinition of sex is blatantly discriminatory towards transgender and nonbinary individuals. Forcing Ohioans to have gender markers on their identification that do not match with their lived identity only puts them at risk of harassment, violence, and further discrimination. This is discrimination based on sex and gender, which is unconstitutional. Who does this redefinition of language benefit? I can tell you that it does not benefit me, and it does not benefit you all in the committee. It certainly does not benefit intersex, transgender, or nonbinary Ohioans; it only serves to hurt them. We are wasting precious time and resources to hurt Ohioans instead of doing what we need to do, which is making Ohio better for its residents. I request that this discriminatory redefinition of sex be taken out of the bill. This language does not belong in our budget, nor does it belong in our country. In our so-called land of the free, do we as Ohioans

really want the reputation of becoming one of the most restrictive, hostile, and oppressive states? Thank you for your time. I hope that my testimony and suggestions will be taken into consideration in your decision-making process.