

Testimony Opposing Anti-Trans Language in Ohio Budget Bill HB96

To: Members of the Ohio Legislature

From: Alissa Sarver, Stark County, Ohio Resident

Date: June 4th 2025

I'm writing as an Ohioan and as a proud ally to the transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people in my life. I am urging you to oppose the harmful language in HB96 that would redefine legal sex as "biological sex" under state law.

This provision may seem bureaucratic or technical on the surface—but for so many people I care about, it would be devastating.

This is not about politics. It's about real people: friends, coworkers, chosen family. People who just want to live their lives safely, honestly, and with dignity. People who have already fought so hard to have their identities legally recognized. This bill threatens to undo that—to force them to carry IDs that misgender them, to expose them to confusion, harassment, even danger.

Every trans person I know already lives with enough fear. They don't need their own state government adding to that.

And as someone who loves them, I'm scared too. I'm scared for the friend who's finally feeling confident enough to apply for a job with her correct name and gender marker. I'm scared for the young people in our community who are watching lawmakers debate whether their identities should be legally erased. I'm scared for what this means for Ohio—for who gets to feel safe here, and who doesn't.

This language serves no public good. It only causes pain. It creates legal confusion, puts people out of compliance with federal ID laws, and sends a cruel message to some of the most vulnerable people in our state: you don't count.

I want to live in an Ohio that welcomes and protects everyone. Where trans, nonbinary, and intersex people are not just tolerated—but respected, celebrated, and safe. Please help make that possible.

Strip this language from the budget. Choose compassion. Choose dignity. Choose people.

Sincerely,

Alissa Sarver

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