

Hello Ohio Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition of the state budget bill which includes language in the bill that would redefine someone's legal sex as "biological sex". This would be extremely harmful to Ohioans who are transgender, nonbinary, and intersex. I am concerned that this is an overreach of governmental authority that infringes on the rights of trans and nonbinary Ohioans. Trans nonbinary, and intersex Ohioans have the right to live out their lives peacefully and without harassment. It is shameful that the Ohio government would try to disguise this language to erase many Ohioans' identities under a budget bill. As a lifelong resident of Ohio, I strongly oppose this bill and any language that would redefine "sex" as "biological sex".

I also oppose the provisions of the bill to restrict LGBTQ+ support. By restricting funding to youth homeless shelters and banning LGBTQ+ materials to minors in public library, the Ohio government would be both taking money away from Ohioans in need as well as unnecessary censorship. Material should not be banned in public schools just because the government disagrees with the content. This is a major infringement on the rights of young Ohioans who should be able to read the material they want.

I also oppose the restructuring of the State Board of Education. There should be more, not less, representation in educational policymaking to make sure that all Ohioans are properly represented. Proper representation is necessary within a democracy.

There should not be a change in distribution of marijuana tax revenue. This was previously voted on by the people. The state government should not go against the will of the voters.

By decreasing funding for health care programs, public services, and prohibiting workers' rights while simultaneously reducing taxes for the wealthy, this budget bill would be extremely dangerous to the rights and lives of the many Ohioans who are not wealthy and rely on these public services. It is the duty of the government to serve the people they govern and provide services to those in need. As a resident of Ohio, I strongly oppose cuts to Medicaid, public services, and funding for essential services. The government should make the lives of its residents easier, not more difficult.

Thank you.
K. SCOTT