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Dear Ohio Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing on behalf of myself and my fellow Ohioans as an opponent to Legislation H.B. 96. Like many transgender citizens in this state, I am appalled to see prejudice continuously injected into what should be a straightforward and bipartisan process for financing our state. The anti-transgender rhetoric exhibited by this bill include but are not limited to the restriction of literature portraying transgender people in public libraries (66623-66627), the use of state funds to dissuade shelters that assist transgender youth (147002-1470070), restriction of state funds from mental health providers that service the transgender community (147948-147954). I will not belabor myself further to illustrate the continuation of anti-transgender rhetoric in our state legislature.

Instead, I will simply remind you that these transgender citizens whom you seem to want to legislate out of existence are not going to simply disappear. While it is true that many have fled the state in preparation for these attacks on an already vulnerable demographic, some of us have chosen to stay and resist these attempts to push us back into the fringe of discourse. Why? Because we love this state and the people who live in it just as much as any other Ohioan. We are among your constituents. It may well be that you wish that we weren't. Many transgender citizens work jobs and promote the economic health of the state and yet this legislation speaks of us as though we are a drain on its resources.

It is my sincere regret that I am unable to testify in person on June 6th, 2025 when testimonies against this bill will be heard. But it is beyond my hope to make the authors of this bill feel guilt or shame for their repeated targeting of the transgender community. That is not the purpose of this letter. I can simply hope that those who read it are reminded that we are human beings in need of healthcare, support, and protection, not erasure. I hope that you can see us as citizens who participate in the vibrant culture of our state. Please oppose this legislation as it is currently written and encourage others to do the same.

Thank you generously for your time and kind consideration,

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