

Chair Jerry C. Cirino
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
HB96

June 6, 2025, 9:00 AM
Senate Hearing Room, Ohio Statehouse

IN OPPOSITION

According to the GLAAD ALERT desk, the amount of hate and harassment against LGBTQ Americans has risen dramatically, totaling 932 incidents from May 1, 2024 to May 1, 2025. In times like this, the only appropriate response is a forceful united front against such violence and those who commit it.

This bill, particularly the provisions in it redefining legal sex as "biological sex," requiring the same to be displayed on State IDs, and putting updated birth certificates out of REAL ID compliance, does the exact opposite. It concedes the central scientifically unfounded belief behind this violence, and it puts trans Ohioans in vulnerable positions, making it necessary to carry proof of their assigned sex at birth wherever they go. It goes without saying that the point of a gender marker on an ID is to identify its holder as they currently are; this bill would replace that necessary function with one that will without a doubt be exploited by those seeking to do them harm. And when that harm inevitably occurs, part of the blame will fall clearly and unquestionably onto this law's supporters.

The choice before you is a simple one. You can side with factual accuracy, with the safety of the people of Ohio, and with those of us who recognize that we are not safe until ALL of us are safe; or you can side with far-right trolls and abusers, who are so insecure in their own masculinity that they must cause suffering to feel safe, and who use laws like this as a thin veneer of legitimacy to their acts.

Thank you.