

Senate Health Committee

Testimony on HB 96, May 13 2025

Amelia Elise Sage Green

[Opening]

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Health Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

My name is Amelia Green, I'm a twenty seven year old, transgender woman and an Ohioan. I'm married, my wife and I are trying to buy our first home. We are both active members of our communities and students. My wife is currently finishing a degree in audio engineering and I am studying to go to med school. Transgender people are not an ideology, we are real people, we exist and we deserve the same rights as anyone else. The fact that I feel compelled to stand here and justify my existence in front of you all today is frankly absurd.

I am here today to speak in opposition to two provisions—Section 9.05 and Section 333.13.

[Section 9.05]

Section 9.05 declares it is the policy of Ohio to recognize only two sexes, defined solely by gamete production. This is biologically inaccurate and legally problematic.

First, intersex individuals exist—these are people born with variations in chromosomes, gonads, or anatomy that don't fit traditional definitions of male or female. Some may produce both gametes or none at all. This law excludes them entirely.

Second, all embryos start with the same reproductive structures. Defining sex as fixed "at conception" contradicts basic developmental biology.

This language mirrors recent federal executive orders—not peer-reviewed science—and it is deplorable, plain and simple. This provision only exists to deny the existence of trans and intersex individuals, and to open us up to be further discriminated against.

[Section 333.13]

Section 333.13 would block Medicaid funding for any mental health services that “promote or affirm social gender transition.” This contradicts the standards of care endorsed by every major medical association, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychiatric Association.

Social transition is not medical intervention—it may include a name change, different pronouns, or clothing choices. Support for this, especially in youth, is proven to improve mental health outcomes and reduces suicide risk. I can speak to this personally, as a teenager and young adult I struggled intensely with both depression and suicidal ideation. These feelings did not go away until I accepted who I truly am. The same is true for my wife, who attempted to take her own life at one point prior to her transition.

In the case of medical intervention, gender affirming care is no different from any other form of healthcare, it is also not exclusively utilized by the transgender community. A cisgender man receiving hair implants or being prescribed medication for Erectile Dysfunction are both examples of it. A cisgender woman taking estrogen to combat the effects of menopause is as well. Denying people access to gender affirming care solely because they are trans is blatantly discriminatory. If you are okay with a cis person receiving this care but are not okay with a trans person doing the same, you are not just repeating bigoted rhetoric, you are actively being a bigot yourself.

Additionally, if the discriminatory nature of this provision wasn't enough, it could have broad unintended effects. If one provider or program within a major health system is deemed “affirming,” the whole institution would lose Medicaid reimbursement—impacting potentially thousands of patients far beyond the transgender community. Laws targeting transgender Americans negatively impact all Americans, plain and simple.

[Closing]

These provisions are not grounded in medical science and pose real harm to vulnerable people. Transgender and intersex people have existed for as long as humanity has, we are not an ideological movement, we are people, the same as you. I urge the committee to consult with clinical experts, to listen to their constituents, and to revise or reject these discriminatory sections. If this does not happen, you will be directly responsible for the deaths of Ohioans, people that you have promised to protect.

Thank you for your time. I welcome any questions.

