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Health Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

May 13, 2025

RE: HB96 Proposed State Budget Testimony

Dear Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and fellow respected Committee Members:

My name is Dara Adkison. My pronouns are they/them. And today, I stand before you on behalf of TransOhio—Ohio's first statewide trans-led equity organization; dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of trans, nonbinary, intersex, and gender nonconforming people in Ohio.

How can we as a state expect to grow and flourish when our budget calls for so much that will make our state worse and less safe. The current proposed budget fosters division, otherization, marginalization, and harms public health instead of addressing the actual needs of Ohio's students, families, elderly and businesses.

Ohioans have been reaching out to all of you and the Governor from all across the state since this budget was proposed. Attached to our testimony is the testimony of over 100 Ohioans from 25+ Counties who are either unable to be here or didn't feel safe in doing so. They plead for you all to listen to their true needs. I will share with you a few examples of those comments:

From Jen in Union County: "At bare minimum, these kinds of policy changes should be proposed as individual bills and heard for public comment."

From Kay in Franklin County: "If the state continues down this path we will lose - economically and by driving young, smart, ambitious, hardworking people away."

From Lauren in Stark County: "Though Governor DeWine claims Ohio is a welcoming state for LGBTQ+ people, in practice this is proved to be untrue again and again. This instance is particularly galling as it tacks on human rights issues to what should be a simple budget bill. I am a queer Ohioan. I am also a worker, a community volunteer, a homeowner, an avid reader and library user. This bill sends a direct message that I am no longer welcome in the state I was born in."

From Rae in Franklin County: "If you pass this bill I will refuse to vote or endorse you or your party next election, you've gone to far. "

From Marin in Hamilton County: "These discriminatory parts of the budget will hurt my family, community, and business."

From Emily in Montgomery County "Why do you hate your constituents so much? Being inclusive creates a happier community. LGBTQ people are literally just trying to be happy in their lives and this doesn't hurt anyone. Please stop spreading hate and misinformation."

From Edith in Wood County " Discrimination is a blatant disregard of the Federal Constitution guaranteeing life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness by citizens. "

TransOhio has collected the testimony of all these people from across this state, from so many counties, from so many walks of life, you represent all of these these people, please listen to them.

**For the good of all Ohioans we urge you to not:**

- Stop funding youth homeless shelters that help LGBTQ+ youth and families
- Redefine gender as only 2 sexes and cannot be changed
- Require that all materials in libraries with any LGBTQ+ content be made inaccessible to minors
- Ban Pride flags at government buildings
- Restrict Medicaid funding for most gender affirming care
- Bans public buildings from placing menstrual products in men's restrooms
- Allow more lead in drinking water
- Cut BOTH public school funding & library funding
- Attack collective bargaining & labor
- Abolish the Ohio Elections Commission
- Require porn photo ID verification
- Cut funding for pediatric cancer research
- Limit minority-owned businesses' access to state contracts
- Call for a public abortion data dashboard
- Allow for leasing of public parks to private oil and gas companies

TransOhio urges this committee to reject this iteration of the state budget, and particularly the line: " It is the policy of the state of Ohio to recognize two sexes, male and female. These sexes are not changeable and are grounded in fundamental and incontrovertible reality." This language is not only factually incorrect, it is dangerous. It contradicts well-established medical, psychological, and legal understanding of sex and gender. It denies the lived reality of thousands of Ohioans, including transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people. And it puts lives at risk.

The idea that sex is binary and immutable is not supported by science. Major medical associations—including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Endocrine Society—continue

to recognize that sex and gender exist on a spectrum. Intersex people, for example, are born with biological traits that do not fit the traditional definitions of male or female. The language of this proposed budget rejects their lived experiences and reality. For many trans and intersex Ohioans, legal and medical transition is life-saving. The United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* confirmed that discrimination against transgender people is a form of sex discrimination. Further, courts across the country—including those in Ohio—have upheld the right of individuals to update identity documents to reflect their correct name and gender. Attempts to erase or deny these rights through budgetary language would almost certainly invite legal challenge, costing Ohio taxpayers both financially and morally.

We urge the committee to remove this language from the budget. It does not belong in fiscal policy, and it does not reflect the values of fairness, science, or compassion that Ohioans deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

TransOhio Board of Directors and Executive Director

What is your name?	Where do you live?	Please share your comment on the proposed budget:
Jen	Union County	This budget discriminates against and harms LGBTQ+ youth. Even beyond that, these policies are harmful for all Ohioans. It attacks the libraries that keep our communities running. Libraries provide services like computer/wifi access, printer access, employment support, and access to so much more. At bare minimum, these kinds of policy changes should be proposed as individual bills and heard for public comment.
Kaitlyn	Butler County	The proposed changes in the state’s budget would be extremely harmful to the LGBTQ+ community, and it discriminates against their basic rights to exist in the state of Ohio. This hatred and discrimination will not be tolerated, and I urge you to not allow these changes to pass in the state budget.
Amy	Franklin	Dear Ohio Senate - Discrimination does not belong in Ohio's budget. Ohio has worked to silence so many through various bills, please don't pass a budget that includes discrimination to marginalized Ohioans. The types of policy changes (included in the budget) should be proposed as individual bills and heard for public comment. Many parts of the budget will hurt my family, my community, and many Ohioans. Please do not allow these discriminatory items to remain in the Ohio budget.
Emmett	Cuyahoga County	This discriminatory budget is a straight up waste of effort into actions that benefit the LGBTQ+ community. Additionally The cutting of public library and education funding is going to screw everyone over in time. Why is important medical research not a

		priority anymore? This only serves to fuel violence and cruelty. If you have the power to provide any positive change, or any pushback towards these blatantly fascist and discriminatory proposals urge you to do so as soon as possible. If the democratic party can at least prove to be useful for something now would be the time to do it.
Micky	Athens	Do not use the budget to sneak in discriminatory policies against LGBTQ+ Ohioans. Do not cut funding for public schools and libraries as education is VITAL for a healthy society. Do not cut funding for PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH (you absolute monsters). Do not attack workers' right to collective bargaining. Do not allow lead in our drinking water. Do not track Ohioans' private health data. Do not lease our public parks to oil companies. Act in the best interests of Ohioans, not lobbyists and big corporations. Each of these issues should, if they must be proposed as legislation, at the very LEAST be proposed as individual bills to be heard for public comment.
Andrew	Franklin County	The restriction of gender affirming care from Medicaid will destroy lives and well-being, and the redefinition of only two sexes is not only discriminatory but biologically inaccurate. The policies proposed in this bill are not only irresponsible but incredibly short-sighted. We the people of Ohio advise that you take more time to listen to all of your constituents and make this state a place where the needs and rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for all are considered and treated with respect.
Breanna	Franklin County	You can't legislate away trans existence, but you can be cruel to people who rely on Medicaid for gender affirming care. This is cruel and unusual, and is blatant discrimination.
Ellie	Franklin County	This budget is bad for Ohioans of color, for students, and for LGBTQ+ Ohioans who love this state and just want to live their lives. Remove discriminatory items from the budget.
Laura	Franklin	Please do not enshrine bigotry and discrimination into Ohio law. This will destroy Ohio families.
Alex	Cuyahoga	Discriminatory language and policies have no place in our state budget. These proposed changes will make it much harder for LGBTQ community members to express themselves and feel safe in our communities. Furthermore, this will decimate the health and wellness of many communities and will create many negative ripples in our state.
Sara	Cuyahoga county	DO NOT PASS THIS EVIL SPIRITED BILL
Isaac	Cuyahoga	This bill is evil, and you should all be ashamed
Sonya	Cuyahoga	Yuck. No thanks.
Kay	Franklin County	It's disappointing to see the contents of SB96. I want my tax dollars and my elected officials working to make lives better for all

		<p>Ohioans, and cutting education, library, and even cancer research funding certainly will not accomplish this.</p> <p>Also, can you just leave LGBTQ+ people alone? Making laws that make life harder for a small percentage of the population is not OK. I am not religious, I don't infringe on your right to express your own religion, but please do not impose your beliefs on me - or on your constituents.</p> <p>If the state continues down this path we will lose - economically and by driving young, smart, ambitious, hardworking people away.</p>
		<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am disappointed to have to write this message. Our state budget should improve services for the people who live in our state. It should seek to bridge the gap between the most vulnerable and the services they need. The budget as it stands will make life worse for Ohioans, especially LGBTQ+ Ohioans. LGBTQ+ people are a beautiful and important part of our state. Removing access to services like homeless shelters and preventing libraries for displaying LGBTQ+ books will only further harm those who are already in pain. LGBTQ+ children will not stop being LGBTQ+ because they didn't see Heartstopper at the library. But they will die if they can't access a homeless shelter.</p>
Mailey	Cuyahoga County	Do better.
Angelo	Cuyahoga	I am fully against this proposed legislation. Absolutely disgusting.
Tiffany Anne	Cuyahoga	Don't hide discrimination laws in budget bills!!!
J	Franklin county	<p>First, these policy changes must be at least proposed as individual bills and heard for public comment.</p> <p>But more importantly, the use of the budget to enforce hate and discrimination amongst our communities is a waste of money and will only harm valuable members of our community, members of my own family, and likely members of your family too.</p> <p>There is absolutely so reason to be spending money on any of these things. Humans are autonomous beings who are meant to love and nourish their bodies and to love and respect one another.</p> <p>Filling our policies with hate and discrimination only causes division, violence, death, and hardship. Is that what you want for your community? Is that what you want for your legacy? To be a part of such a hateful act that causes nothing but pain?</p>
M	Franklin County	Please reconsider adding any of these items to the budget. None of the measures in this budget protect or help children or anyone

		else in the state. It is not welcoming & not inclusive at all.
Stix	Hamilton County	As a trans constituent, this bill makes it unsafe for me- a born and raised Ohioian- to live here. Already, my life feels unsafe. A bill like this has no place in our country. It will only further to make Ohians lives more unsafe and more violent. Make no mistake, this bill encourages violence on trans Ohians lives. And, as public servants, you have a responsibility to all your constituents- even the LGBTQIA members of our community. Please remember that your oath to protect and serve Ohians extends to us, too. And we will hold you to that oath.
Marcia	Williams	Discrimination of any kind is bad. Remember, Jesus is watching you.
Jack	Franklin	These proposed budget changes will deeply impact many members in our communities across the state. For a political party to want to think of the children but restrict funding and aid towards both public schooling and youth homeless shelters is incredibly hypocritical. As someone who also relied on the library system in my youth, it pains me to see a blow being dealt to their funding when a child of the newest generation should be able to receive the benefits of library to enhance themselves towards their future self. As a queer person who knew they were queer from a young age with no access to LGBTQ materials, myself and many others would have benefitted greatly from media to educate ourselves on what was manifesting inside ourselves. Do not rob these children of opportunities to better themselves and better understand themselves. Given the long lasting implications a lot of these policies will have upon our great state they should be made as individual bills for the public themselves to comment upon.
EC	Warren County	Public libraries are an important public resource for people of all ages, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable. We should not be de funding them. And it should be the parents' right to monitor what kind of books their child has access to, not the government's.  Furthermore, what does the definition of sex and gender have to do with the state budget? This belongs in a separate piece of legislation.

		<p>Knowing that 74% of Americans support the transgender rights (Data For Progress, Oct. 2024), discrimination against anyone or any community has no place in the Ohio biennial budget process. The proposed State Budget targets the LGBTQ community. It specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stops funding youth homeless shelters that help LGBTQ+ youth and families</li> <li>2. Redefines gender as only 2 sexes and cannot be changed</li> <li>3. Requires that all materials in libraries with any LGBTQ+ content be made inaccessible to minors</li> <li>4. Bans Pride flags at government buildings</li> </ol> <p>Restricts Medicaid funding for most gender affirming care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Bans public buildings from placing menstrual products in men's restrooms</li> </ol> <p>In the days when I worked at the Statehouse, on the House Judiciary Committee, the focus for the budget was on running the state. Pork-barrel projects were slipped in as line-items by legislators. Rarely if ever were there personal vendettas against specific groups or marginalized groups. The Ohio General Assembly and Governor have made Ohio a police state.</p> <p>I ask that these items be eliminated from the proposed Ohio biennial budget. If they are included in the version submitted by the Ohio General Assembly to Governor DeWine, I respectfully request that he veto each before signing it into law.</p>
Karen I Gallagher	324 Springbrook Dr SE	Sincerely, Karen I Gallagher, M.Ed.
Koryn	Lorain County, OH	<p>As someone who is LGBTQ+, with loved ones who are trans, and who works with people in the LGBTQ+ community as a case manager, I vehemently oppose this bill. I have seen first hand the impacts that lack of access to gender-affirming care can have on people, both youth and adults, and could never encourage support for a bill that allows for such blatant discrimination. The fact that this is even a consideration for Ohio is shameful.</p>

Jill	Mansfield	<p>The current budget bill is full of discrimination and bad ideas. Please remove these items:</p> <p>Stops funding youth homeless shelters that help LGBTQ+ youth and families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Redefines gender as only 2 sexes and cannot be changed</li> <li>✗ Requires that all materials in libraries with any LGBTQ+ content be made inaccessible to minors</li> <li>✗ Bans Pride flags at government buildings</li> <li>✗ Restricts Medicaid funding for most gender affirming care</li> <li>✗ Bans public buildings from placing menstrual products in men's restrooms</li> <li>✗ Allows more lead in drinking water</li> <li>✗ Cuts BOTH public school funding &amp; library funding</li> <li>✗ Attacks collective bargaining &amp; labor</li> <li>✗ Abolishes the Ohio Elections Commission</li> <li>✗ Requires porn photo ID verification</li> <li>✗ Cuts funding for pediatric cancer research</li> <li>✗ Limits minority-owned businesses' access to state contracts</li> <li>✗ Calls for a public abortion data dashboard</li> <li>✗ Allows for leasing of public parks to private oil and gas companies</li> </ul> <p>I disagree with all of them. Do not pass if still included.</p>
Stephanie Key	Greene, Co	<p>Stop the discrimination! These programs and resources are vital for our LGBTQ+ youth and community. Stay out of our personal lives. Instead provide safety and equality for all Ohioans!!</p>
Rae	Franklin	<p>If you pass this bill I will refuse to vote or endorse you or your party next election, you've gone to far. This proposed budget benefits a small margin of the Ohio populace and will have many negative public health effects as well as lowered morale. Please block this bill.</p>
Derek	Franklin	<p>These are not budget issues. The Ohio legislature treating them as such short circuits representative democracy. These issues should be individual bills subject to public comments and official testimony.</p>
Edith	Wood County	<p>Discrimination is a blatant disregard of the Federal Constitution guaranteeing life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness by citizens. Seeking to discriminate based on individual qualities is also a violation of the constitution. Trans people's identity of themselves and how they pursue their lives violates no other law than ones that are made against them after the fact. It is no different than discrimination against race, or religion. Let trans people live their lives as they are.</p>
Ashton	Lucas County	<p>Less than a month ago, Governor Dewine stated that he wanted Ohio to be a state that was for everyone, for Ohio to be seen as a welcoming state. The proposed changes to restrict LGBTQ+ advocacy, safety, and information is a direct violation of that.</p>



		<p>Science has proven that there are more than two sexes, science has proven that gender affirming care has a less than 1% regret rate which is lower than plastic surgery like breast augmentation. Allowing children to see that there is diversity in the world does not harm them, it opens their minds to the possibilities that not everyone lives like they do or that they might find a place in the world where they fit in more comfortably. The changes proposed to restrict acceptance and safety for those in the LGBTQ+ will only cause harm. You will ostracize an already vulnerable community, and you'll push more people to leave Ohio. Ohio population numbers are already in a decline, students are already turning away attending colleges in Ohio thanks to the DEI restrictions implemented by the state government. I just bought a house here in Ohio a year ago and I'm already considering moving to Michigan since my rights and the rights of my future children are being restricted and reduced with each passing bill. How is this the land of the free when you're constantly censoring people within the community? How can Ohio be a welcoming place for people when it's constantly targeting the LGBTQ+ community, the poor, and other vulnerable members of our community? Ohio isn't just for the white-straight-christian american. Ohio and America is supposed to be for all. Liberty and Justice for All. Continuing to pass these dangerous bills will only continue to work against that and aid the view that Ohio is becoming more and more in line with Nazi rhetoric and views. Is that what you want Ohio to be known for? Is that what Jesus would want? Proposed budget HB96 is going to ruin Ohio.</p>
Karin	Cuyahoga	<p>My concerns are no funding for lead free water to prevent brain damage to children is unconscionable. Funding for pediatric cancer research is an abomination. Rights for our LGBTQ community should be upheld.</p>
B	Montgomery	<p>There are several policy changes added to the budget that should be proposed as individual bills. This is not democracy and there is a large amount of discrimination against people the state should be welcoming towards. Please refuse to pass this budget until all policy changes regarding gender discrimination are removed. In particular I find it appalling that gender is redefined as only 2 sexes as this is not biological truth. There are many policy changes here that will endanger the public and turn away business from Ohio. We can do better and we should be supporting our LGBTQ+ Ohioans not forcing them to consider leaving our state due to such draconian measures as are being hidden in what should only be a budget proposal. Additionally cutting public school funding and library funding is ridiculous as these measures are voted on in individual counties of the state. This is government overreach at its finest and several things are tacked on into the budget because they would not be able to</p>

		survive on their own as separate bills. Please vote this down and draw up a true budget that does not harm Ohio.
Priscilla Shields	Cuyahoga County	Psychiatrists recognize a spectrum of gender identities, extending beyond the traditional binary of male and female. They acknowledge that individuals may identify as cisgender (matching their assigned sex at birth), transgender (not matching their assigned sex), or nonbinary (identifying as neither, both, or somewhere in between). Examples of nonbinary identities include genderfluid, genderqueer, and agender. To exclude funding of services for any citizen because of their gender is discriminatory and unconstitutional. I have many friends and relatives who do not fit your definition of gender and I can assure you they are all wonderful people and do not deserve to be marginalized.
Asher	6613 w Bancroft street	Don't block anything we all a person and don't like to be judged just because we feel we different then the way we were born
Steve	Hamilton County	Discrimination should not be in a budget. No lead in drinking water. We will not accept these actions. We will vote you out.
Justin	Hamilton	There is no reason for any of this. Everyone deserves to be safe, have access to education, health and medical resources and care etc. we are all human and deserve to have the same access to healthcare, assistance in living, food. The right to be who you are, identify how ever you want. It doesn't affect the needs of anyone.
Indica	Montgomery County, Dayton	Completely overreach of power, just like the governor putting his own son into the Supreme Court of Ohio. I thought republicans didn't want government interfering? Complete bs if you're reading this go fuck yourself.
Sarah Martin	Hamilton County	DISCRIMINATION HAS NO PLACE IN THE OHIO BUDGET!!! THIS IS DANGEROUS AND IT IS KILLING PEOPLE AND THEIR SAFTEY!!!
Al	Hamilton County	While these discriminations are unnecessary and cruel by themselves, trying to slip them into a state budget where they have no place at all is an extra insult. If you don't think these measures could pass on their own merit, then you have no call to be pushing them. Stating that 'there are only two genders that can't switch' as if it is a clear and obvious fact does not actually make it a fact, which it scientifically is not. Please stop trying to hurt people just trying to live their lives. There's no call for it, and it reveals a propensity for cruelty that no one should be facing from the government of their state. It will cause people to leave the state, one way or another.
Matt	Hamilton	This is simply unacceptable. Many of you claim to be Christian. Jesus said love thy neighbor as thyself. Instead you thumb your nose at Him and act in the opposite way, trying to erase friends,

		family, and community members. Absolutely disgraceful.
Lauren	Warren County	Discrimination doesn't belong in the Ohio State Budget HB96. Our public libraries are essential in our community and do not need to discriminate against any material. It is up to the reader and the reader's parents on what one reads. Not our government. Also as a nonbinary parent, discrimination of any kind toward to the LGBTQIA+ community is distressing and will put our community in direct harm while also causing continued hate. I want a world where my child and I can live in peace to be ourselves no matter what that looks like. We are not hurting ANYBODY. Please stand up for us. To add on to my issues with this, I am alive today because of abortion. My mother had multiples and some of them were dying in her womb. If she didn't have a safe abortion with some of the fetuses, I would not be alive. The life saving abortion saved my twin sister and I. Please consider me and my family when creating laws for Ohio. Thank you.
Chris	Hamilton	The library is a vital part of or cities, counties and states. LGBTQ people exist. They are humans just like cisgender and straight people. Pretending as if they don't exist will not keep them from existing, but will put a large population at risk. We are coming to a boiling point where everyone's constitutional rights are being petitioned. Be a part of the solution, not the problem.
Drew	Butler county	Please let me live my life and have my privacy and freedom
Jacobee	Greene	This vilification of trans people is at best a waste of taxpayer dollars and energy that our representatives could spend on actually improving their constituents' quality of life. At worst, it is an unnecessary attack on a community that has never harmed anyone by merely existing.
Angela	Hamilton	Elected officials are meant to protect our freedoms - not restrict them. Any attempt to infringe on our rights is a betrayal of the oath you took to serve the people.
Mackenzie Hall	979 Harkin dr cincinnati, oh 45240	This is straight up discrimination.
Angela Kaesheimer	Kenton County, KY	I may not live in Ohio, but I work there and pay taxes for both my job there and the city that I work in. You can't claim to represent all your constituents or have their best interests at heart when you create policies that put them in harm's way! These policy changes will have direct negative consequences on the citizens you claim to care about. The data is there and you're refusing to accept it. Take care of your voters and fellow Ohioans and stop being a coward catering to bullies and bigots.
Vicki Prunty	Wayne	The entire reason we started doing these things is because trans people were dying at an astronomical rate. The only reason you would want to change course is because you want to see trans

		people die. If that's the case then maybe you should just say that. Instead of pretending that you care about any of us.
Jacquelyn	Hamilton county	Stop using the budget to escape goat marginalized people and pander to special interests, the budget has not where legislation on these things belong.
Mica	Warren County	Discrimination has no place in the Ohio budget! These kinds of policy changes must be at least proposed as individual bills and heard for public comment. These parts of the budget will hurt my family, my community, and my career!
Paige	Marion County	<p>Up until I was about 11, the only instances of LGBT people I ever saw were on TV in comedies that my parents watched. They were portrayed as gross, weird freaks who only cared about sex. Naturally when you see that you don't even realize that liking other girls is something you can do in earnest because you've only ever seen it played for laughs, or meant to make an audience cringe. For much of my life I bottled up that feeling, which I know is what people who support these ideas want, and I never want any other person regardless of their age to have to do that. I'm 21 now and I've met so many wonderful people of all ages with rich inner lives and hopes and dreams and they just happen to be gay or trans or are exploring that aspect of themselves and trying to come to a conclusion. Isn't that something everyone should be able to strive for? To be able to dream and accomplish and love and express themselves as they are without judgment?</p> <p>It's my understanding that a lot of people who are not in support of LGBTQ+ rights are doing it "for the children." Even ignoring the fact that this is clearly a lie, how does stripping youth homeless shelters and restricting minors from reading books that happen to have gay people in them help children? Do you seriously want people to believe that abandoning homeless children because some of them happen to be queer is helping them? Does it help LGBTQ+ kids to hide any evidence that they exist? Does any of this help literally anyone? Not only that, but talking about "protecting children" and then cutting school funding and allowing more lead in drinking water is astoundingly hypocritical. Talking about "protecting children" and then cutting funding for pediatric cancer research and allowing private companies to lease public parks where children play and laugh and grow is astoundingly hypocritical. Maybe you as politicians just don't care about the hypocrisy, and nobody can stop you, you're in charge of your own actions. However, at the very least if you don't care about actually helping people, care about your public image. I highly doubt most parents would enjoy you stripping funding meant for their kids because you thought LGBT people were gross.</p>

Caleb	Steubenville	The state budget should never be used as a tool to further discrimination against the communities that the state is made up of. Continuing the harmful and oppressive discourse for limiting gay and transgender individuals in what they are allowed to do while simply existing is wrong and does not serve our state. Cutting funding for public community services such as libraries and requiring greater government oversight of private medical information and choices is not what your constituents want or require to thrive.
Marin Day	Hamilton	Discrimination has no place in the Ohio budget! These kinds of policy changes must be at least proposed as individual bills and heard for public comment. These discriminatory parts of the budget will hurt my family, community, and business.
Ash	Hamilton county	This discrimination will be harmful and damaging to myself, my friends, and family. This discrimination will isolate us from our right to exist and freedom in this country. Please reconsider and think above your peers when voting as this puts lives at risk.
Abigail	Akron	I find it ridiculous that a budget bill has so much to do with gender and bathrooms. Those don't belong in a budget bill but separate bills that all deserve their own hearings
Chaelsie	Trumbull	Please don't make Ohio a hateful place for our trans community to live. They just want to exist in peace. Nothing more, nothing less. Leave them be! Good people do not target vulnerable minorities!
Erica	Butler County	I am a transgender adult trying to live my life in peace. I work full time, pay taxes, vote, raise a family, and have never been a criminal. The proposed Ohio state budget is full of discriminatory items designed to make my life even harder than it already is for no reason other than cruelty. I implore you to reject all legislation designed to harm trans people.

Amanda	Summit County	<p>Dear Members of the Ohio Senate,</p> <p>I am writing to express my profound concern and opposition to the discriminatory provisions embedded within Ohio's HB 96. As a representative of an organization dedicated to supporting and empowering our community, I witness firsthand the devastating impact that such legislation will have on the lives of vulnerable individuals and families.</p> <p>The proposed state budget, under HB 96, contains measures that directly undermine the fundamental human rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly our youth. Specifically, I urge you to reconsider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Defunding youth homeless shelters that serve LGBTQ+ youth and families: This action will leave already marginalized young people without essential support and safety nets. These shelters provide crucial resources and safe spaces, and their defunding will exacerbate the crisis of youth homelessness within the LGBTQ+ community.</li> <li>-Redefining gender and denying gender affirming care: Redefining gender as only two sexes and restricting Medicaid funding for gender affirming care denies individuals their basic human rights and access to necessary medical treatment. This will have severe negative consequences for the mental and physical health of transgender individuals.</li> <li>-Restricting access to LGBTQ+ content in libraries: Limiting access to information and resources that reflect the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals creates a hostile and discriminatory environment. Libraries should be spaces of inclusion and access for all.</li> <li>-Banning Pride flags at government buildings: This symbolic act of exclusion sends a clear message that LGBTQ+ individuals are not welcome or valued by their government.</li> <li>-Denying menstrual products in mens bathrooms: This action creates unneeded discrimination and a health risk for any person who may need them. Additionally, sometimes men may have a daughter with them who is experiencing a menstrual cycle and needs products while out in the community. Increasing accessibility to necessary feminine health products is crucial.</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, the inclusion of other harmful provisions, such as increased lead in drinking water, cuts to public school and library funding, and limitations on minority-owned business access,</p>
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		<p>demonstrates a disregard for the well-being of all Ohioans. These policies will disproportionately affect marginalized communities and create further inequities within our state.</p> <p>These policy changes should be proposed as individual bills that have public comments. The inclusion of these items in a nearly 5000 page budget bill is a way to sneak these harmful policies into law.</p> <p>I implore you to uphold the principles of equality, justice, and human dignity. I urge you to remove these discriminatory provisions from HB 96 and instead prioritize policies that promote inclusivity and protect the rights of all Ohio residents.</p>
Samantha	Franklin county	You're driving people out of this state
Ellie	Butler County	<p>Trans rights or human rights. Gender affirming care is healthcare. The small percentage of people that are transgender are not harming the rest of ohio's citizens. Just let them live in peace and be well. It doesn't matter who someone loves, nor does it matter what they do in the privacy of their own home. Stop making queer people feel like criminals.</p>
Elijah	Franklin County	<p>To the representative who reads my message:</p> <p>I will not stand for HB96 to be legislated. My congregation will not stand for this. People like me who supported YOU last election will be harmed by this bill. My friends and family will be harmed by this bill.</p> <p>This bill is violent.</p> <p>If you vote for this insane bill, my congregation will hold you accountable. We will protest everywhere you are. And you will never serve our community again.</p> <p>And someday, God will hold you RESPONSIBLE for all the evil &amp; hate you bring into this world.</p>
Marnie	Franklin County	<p>Discrimination does not belong in the budget! Policy changes should be introduced as individual bills so the peoples' voices can be heard and proper steps taken to pass or fail. Trying to sneak anti-LGBTQ+ policies into the budget without due process is underhanded and wrong. You KNOW the majority of citizens would oppose many if not all of these terrible takes. This is not to even mention all the other awful ideas in the proposed budget. This budget as proposed must NOT pass, and we the people call on Dewine to make a stand and veto it if it gets to his desk!</p>

Nancy	Athens	<p>Dear Representative Don Jones,</p> <p>My name is Nancy, and I've been living in your district for over 40 years. I've never written in to my representative before. But now I want you to hear my story.</p> <p>My niece is trans. Her name is Stella. Stella's parents beat her so badly that the school counselor noticed and reported neglect. Stella's CPS case was dismissed, and she had to run away when she was 13 years old just to avoid being beaten in her own home. She has told me many times that she only survived homelessness because of the Safe and Supported project in Cincinnati. That program is how she was able to go to the same school until I reached out and had her move in with me.</p> <p>I share this with you, because HB96 aims to take funding away from programs like the one that saved her life. Your views on trans people might be different from mine. But I think it's a tragedy that any child would ever be forced to live on the street because of their gender identity. And I know from Stella's horror stories, that taking away programs like this will put children in danger. And that is more important than whatever you or I believe.</p> <p>You can't allow this to pass. I'm begging you to remember; protecting kids is our job. It's one of the only jobs we have that actually matters.</p> <p>Please vote against HB96.</p> <p>Best regards, Nancy</p>
Corinne	Delaware County	<p>Hello. I'm Corinne, a transgender senior at Dublin Jerome High School who is about to graduate, and I am terrified for my future. I assume the justification for banning LGBTQ+ library books to minors, defunding homeless shelters that serve queer youth, etc. is that you're trying to protect your kids, and I am truly empathetic to that cause. I think that, as lawmakers, you really can make a better, safer world for not just your kids, but for children across the state of Ohio. However, your methods are misguided - these measures will only hurt us, gay and straight alike. From someone on the precipice of adulthood, I'd like to review what you are proposing in this budget and see if they truly do protect the youth of Ohio.</p> <p>Banning books and defunding public services like libraries will not help children at all. The library system is a quintessential fixture for so many Ohioans - it's a place where, even if their home</p>



	<p>environment is not ideal, they can study, read, use the internet, print and copy important documents, and enjoy free air conditioning and heating. These are necessities for so many people who may not have all of these luxuries at their homes. Even if their home environment is serviceable, students love having a second space to hang out and do homework - every single day, you can go to the Dublin branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library and witness dozens of students from Jerome, Coffman, and Scioto utilizing the amenities provided to them by public funding to excel in high school and beyond. Defunding these institutions and limiting access to literature is going to hurt every single child who uses libraries. Going further, state funded public schools are also a necessity, especially in poorer areas like downtown Columbus. Dublin and other suburbs will be fine - we have enough local resources already - but you need to fund the education of your poorest citizens if you want a fair society, especially in a time where federal funding for education is being threatened so much. Equally important to schools are homeless shelters for youth, which are some of the most worthwhile investments you can make. They help people who would otherwise be freezing out on the streets - where police officers and citizens may then discriminate against them. Defunding them for supporting a specific chunk of the population is, to put it bluntly, evil. Do you want these children, with nowhere else to go, to live on the streets, to beg for money and food, to be harassed by passers-by, just because they are gay or trans? Additionally, even if you don't agree with what is said in books written by queer authors, silencing their voices is contrary to the principles of the United States - the banning of literature is a telltale sign of a government becoming fascistic, limiting free speech and prohibiting their citizens from accessing certain topics that go against the will of those in power. Please, do not fall into these traps.</p> <p>Finally, on a personal note, I'm begging you to not cut Medicaid funding for gender-affirming care. I know this is another attempt to protect children, but kids under 16 who are struggling with their identities are only ever given hormone blockers, which have temporary and completely reversible effects. Those 16 or over can acquire hormones - at least before the recent executive orders and HB 68 - but it is a grueling, expensive, long process. I assure you, those trying to make it through the transgender health system are dedicated to transitioning, and the likelihood of them regretting their decision is incredibly low. If they do end up detransitioning, hormones at a low dose do not change the body dramatically in the first few months. In fact, the regret rate for gender affirming surgeries is &lt;1%, and to remind you, these can only be accessed by adults after a long and expensive process. I</p>
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		<p>understand this is all part of a bigger culture war, and I doubt my words will really sway anyone who reads this, but I feel that it's my duty to share with you how essential gender-affirming care is for those with gender dysphoria. For us, it's the only cure for a horrible condition, one which makes you despise your very being. Don't make it worse - I am transgender, and nothing you do will stop me from being transgender.</p> <p>I hope you try to understand my criticisms. I hope you don't just dismiss us. Please, listen to your citizens, and don't pass this budget.</p>
Wesley Chivington	223 W Garland Ave Fairborn Ohio 45324	<p>Once again, the majority of Ohio legislators have shown that they do not represent the majority of Ohioans. Yet again, legislators that claim to love small government and the rights of parents strip family's of personal decision making and expand government overreach. I beg of you to practice what you preach. Leave public health decisions to the experts.</p>
Ry	Wood county	<p>I urge you not to pass a budget with discriminatory content snuck in. Doing an end run around legislation that would be found unconstitutional is reprehensible, beyond the generally reprehensible nature of trying to limit the rights of a small portion of the population who aren't hurting anyone. Additionally, cutting school and library funding when those public institutions are already being hit hard by federal cuts would undermine the ability of Ohioans to succeed in their lives. It's imperative that libraries and schools (and all its citizens) be supported by the state so that the state of Ohio can stand a chance of being a decent place to live, work, and raise a family regardless of what is happening in Washington DC.</p>
Amanda	Hamilton	<p>I didn't repeat with liberty and justice for ALL every day of my elementary school education when pledging allegiance to grow up and demand anything less from my government and/or representatives. Fund libraries, shelters, protect all constituents equally, respect the intrinsic dignity of the full spectrum of humanity.</p>
Dom	U.S.A.	<p>These policies are blatantly discriminatory and restrict true freedom of speech and expression. Not only trans folks need tampons in men's restrooms but what about intersex individuals? These proposed bills will do more harm than good and further alienate those from our society who have already struggled through so much. Government should be hands off libraries and restrooms, period. "Small government" should mean freedom for trans and queer people in our community, not more government policing us.</p>
Emily B	Hamilton County, OH	<p>Please DO NOT kowtow to this presidential administration's attacks on, and disregard for, the Constitution, and please don't</p>

		undo the progress our country has made in recognizing that all women, all children, people of all races, varied abilities, religions, and different sexual orientations have the right to dignity, respect, and access to education, including and especially free access to library resources that speak to their individual needs. We need the state budget to support all of its constituents, not just the special interests of those with the most money.
Colleen	Hamilton County	These proposed policy changes do not reflect the opinion of the majority of Ohioans and are NOT in the best interests of the citizens you have been sworn to serve. You have a duty to respect the rights and freedoms of ALL Ohioans.
Travis	Hamilton County	Please just let trans people live their lives. They just want to be.
Lilith	Summit county	I am a 19 year old trans woman who was born and raised in Ohio, I have prided myself through the past few years of anti trans legislation for living in what I wrongfully assumed to be one of the "safer" red states. That was until this budget was introduced, redefining gender as being only defined by physical sex is extremely damaging to the trans community as well as the intersex community and I will NOT be erased! Governor Dewine, if you care about your constituents you will NOT allow this to pass, one of the only reasons that I am alive today is being supported by my family in my gender identity and having access to life saving gender affirming healthcare. I am proud to be an Ohioan, please allow me to stay proud by saying no to HB 96 please keep Ohio safe for trans people of all ages.
Erin	Hamilton County	It is vitally important that you vote against HB96. I am appalled at the idea that my taxes could be used to fund, implement, and normalize blatant hatred and discrimination in Ohio. The war on LGBTQ+ communities in this country is inhumane, in direct opposition to the idea of liberty and justice for all, and frankly humiliating, to think that anyone can believe that this kind of discrimination is okay. The LGBTQ+-oppressive measures posed in HB96 are a threat to so many who just wish to live and love as friends and neighbors. This war is being waged under the guise of protecting women's rights and children's safety, but the result will be as far from these ideals as it is possible to be. The proposed budget will endanger countless people's health and safety, cut valuable school and library resources, violate Ohioans' privacies, and generally injure democracy in our state and nation. Opposing this bill is not optional. It is your duty.

Gwen	Butler	<p>I as a native Ohioan think that any budget bill that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Stops funding youth homeless shelters that help LGBTQ+ youth and families</li> <li>* Redefines gender as only 2 sexes and cannot be changed</li> <li>*Requires that all materials in libraries with any LGBTQ+ content be made inaccessible to minors</li> <li>* Bans Pride flags at government buildings</li> </ul> <p>Restricts Medicaid funding for most gender affirming care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Bans public buildings from placing menstrual products in men's restroom</li> </ul> <p>Is discriminatory and has absolutely no place in ohio law</p>
Brittany	Hamilton county	<p>A government should represent the interests of all of its constituents, not just those with large amounts of wealth and certainly not those of private companies. Ohio deserves better than to have our libraries and schools dessimated. Ohioans deserve to not be discriminated against. How can our own leaders be confused about the perception of this state as unwelcoming, when they are the ones protecting hate and legislating away personal choice. This proposal is draconian, cruel, and will harm Ohio.</p>
Eli Morbid	Belmont	stop this please
Judy	Greene County	<p>Please veto this bill! We know there are no ONLY two genders. Lgbtq folks are already being attacked. Lgbtq kids are at such a greater risk of bullying and suicide. Keeping support and education in place for them helps us all!</p>
Dianne	Hamilton	I don't support this. It absolutely has no place in a budget.
Kate	United States	<p>More lead in water and less rights for Ohioans. Give me a fucking break. Eventually the people will rise up.</p>
Roxie	Kenton	<p>This proposal is ridiculous and will only hurt the people in this region.</p>
Tasha	Hamilton County	Hate has no home here!
Crystal	Cuyahoga	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 96. While I understand the importance of efficient governance and fiscal responsibility, I believe this bill contains provisions that undermine democratic principles, perpetuate discriminatory practices, and jeopardize public health.</p> <p>This bill includes provisions that disproportionately harm marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals. By restricting access to LGBTQ+ materials in public libraries, criminalizing support for transgender youth, and defining gender in narrow, exclusionary terms, the bill fosters an environment of censorship and discrimination. These measures threaten the mental health and well-being of vulnerable populations, particularly young people, and undermine the principles of equality and inclusion that Ohioans value.</p>

		<p>The inclusion of an abortion dashboard is another deeply troubling aspect of this bill. Such a measure risks violating patient privacy and could be used to stigmatize individuals seeking reproductive healthcare. Public health policies should prioritize the safety, dignity, and autonomy of all individuals, rather than imposing invasive and punitive measures.</p> <p>Furthermore, the inclusion of these significant changes within a broader budget bill, without proper debate or consultation with stakeholders, is deeply concerning. This approach limits public awareness and input on matters that directly impact the integrity of our justice system, the rights of marginalized communities, and the trust Ohioans place in their government.</p>
Allen	Franklin County	<p>In an effort to speak up for the safety and support of those I love and care for, as well as my fellow Ohio residents at large, I am writing today to urge the senate to remove discrimination from the state budget. Or, at the very least, these kinds of policy changes must be proposed as individual bills and heard for public comment.</p> <p>HB96 contains explicit discrimination against those of the LGBTQ+ population. As an Ohio resident with several family members and friends who belong to this population, this is a very important matter to me. And from what I can tell, people all across the state share my deep concerns.</p> <p>The discrimination in HB96 includes a proposal to stop funding youth homeless shelters that help LGBTQ+ youth and families access the resources they need to stay housed and off the streets, protecting them from harsh weather and other hazards to their health and well-being. It also includes a proposal to redefine gender as only "two sexes" which could severely impair countless individuals' ability to receive crucial medical care or even broader services depending on how this unspecified and pointless redefinition is enforced. It would require that all books in libraries with any LGBTQ+ content be made inaccessible to minors, a blatant and shameful form of discrimination that endangers the health and education of all youth. It would ban pride flags at government buildings, an unproductive act of suppression of recognition for marginalized populations. It would restrict Medicaid funding for most gender affirming care, a cruel and unjust punishment thrust upon people of whom experience some of the most significant rates of suicidal ideation when restricted from accessing this crucial form of health care, of which the patients themselves along with their highly educated and licensed providers consistently support the funding of. It would also ban public buildings from placing menstrual products in men's restrooms, which in my honest opinion is frankly ridiculous. No one group of just a few people should be putting restrictions on</p>

		<p>which kinds of simple medical supplies can be stocked and accessed by civilians in public bathrooms. Menstrual products do no harm to anyone, while easier access to them helps people stay clean and healthy.</p> <p>I once again urge the senate to remove discrimination from the state budget, and I thank them for their time spent reading this letter which I have written from a place of deep concern about the lives of my trans and queer loved ones, were these discriminatory policies to be enforced.</p>
Susan Newman	1625 McMurtrie Loop The Villages, FL 34763	I have a trans daughter living in Ohio. I feel very concerned about this proposed budget and discriminatory measures towards the trans community.
Amy	Franklin	I will NEVER support any act of discrimination towards ANY individual! Stop being afraid to do what is RIGHT!!! You think abortion is wrong, but how about trans youth killing themselves because they feel scared, alone, persecuted?! A CHILD!!!! Everyone deserves protection.
Ollie	Wilmington Ohio	Please do not take away people's rights. Please acknowledge and be mindful to your oath to the constitution. Please include everyone when it comes to freedom. Or else, you make it so that we are not the land of the free.
Cathy	Lake	First amendment rights, rights for LGBTQ, cuts to public school and library funding... tearing down our state piece by piece brick by brick. Ohio, you are better than this..
Kelly Glover	Hamilton	<p>Transgender people are just trying to live their lives. Their decisions and genitalia are a personal matter and the vast majority of rape and sexual assault is carried out by cis-gendered individuals. The amount of transgender individuals having surgery underage is less than 1% of all transgender individuals, and is only done with therapy, doctor consultation, and parental permission. Let's stop this witchhunt and focus on real issues harming Americans, like inflation and harmful tariffs.</p> <p>Taking away suicide hotlines and homeless shelters for LGBTQ people doesn't magically make LGBTQ people go away, it only leads to more suicides and vulnerable youth on the streets.</p> <p>Regarding sex as binary is scientifically inaccurate, even if you don't agree with transgender individuals, because it erases intersex people.</p> <p>What kind a person would abolish pediatric Cancer Care for children, I can't even believe I have to comment on that.</p> <p>Menstrual products in men's bathrooms is not just for transgender</p>

		<p>men, but many times this bathrooms are used at sporting events when there are two girls teams, or in the case that an event has more women than men and the men's room needs to be used for additional women. Taking menstrual products out of men's bathrooms also punishes cisgender women.</p> <p>Again, who exactly in the right mind, would want to propose something that would lead to more lead in Ohio's drinking water?</p> <p>I implore you, and anyone with common sense, to stop these funding legislation that only harms people living in our great state.</p>
Meghan	West Chester Ohio	This bill is unduly harsh and the provisions have no place in a budget bill.
Farida	Wood County	We need policies that build bridges and promote goodwill- not policies that further divide citizens.
James	Hamilton co	With the disproportionately high risk of suicide for queer youth, access to affirming information can literally kill people children.
Shan Kesling	Lucas county	This isn't what we want! This isn't the Ohio that I chose to live in! Trans rights are human rights!
Stephen	Butler	Passing discriminatory laws against the LGBTQIA community does nothing to help Ohioans. These acts are senseless, unpopular, and designed to be weapons used against minority groups that only wish to have the same rights as is guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States. I urge you to vote no against HB96 and stop hateful and unnecessary laws from passing in Ohio. You were elected to serve the people, and studies have shown that anti-LGBTQIA laws are unpopular, and often unconstitutional. Please think of all Ohioans when you decide which bills become laws.
Lyn	Franklin	If you push this bill, kids will die, a lot of them by their own hand. I expect better from you people.
Riley	Cheviot Ohio, Hamilton County	<p>Discrimination will only harm your constituents. I work in Conservation education and most if not all of these extreme changes will destroy what I'm doing to live and exist in our beautiful state. Cutting library funding will harm the resources I need to teach this next generation of Ohioans of the importance of saving our natural resources. Not only will these measures affect my professional life but also my personal life as a nonbinary citizen. Cutting trans healthcare from Medicaid will kill me. My body does not produce the hormones I need to live and need them medically replaced.</p> <p>Please reconsider these extreme measures.</p>
Emily	Montgomery County	Why do you hate your constituents so much? Being inclusive creates a happier community. LGBTQ people are literally just trying to be happy in their lives and this doesn't hurt anyone.



		Please stop spreading hate and misinformation.
Frances Whited	Wayne County	I'm appalled that the Ohio senate is trying to avoid public comment by cramming a bunch of hate-filled proposals in the budget bill. I truly do not understand the hate for LGBTQ. The only thing this misguided efforts will accomplish is to make a vulnerable population even more vulnerable. The entire trans population of Ohio constitutes about 6%. Why all these directives aimed at such a small number of people??!! Do we not have bigger problems to worry about? Trans people, like everyone else, just want to live their lives in peace. The budget should not contain ANY policies that discriminate. Governor DeWine said he wanted to state to be seen as welcoming to everyone. Is this the way to send that message?
Cassandra	Clermont county	STOP THIS SHIT
Jaime	Hamilton County	I greatly oppose these budget proposals. I work with children and I see many of these cuts and restrictions as detrimental to their developmental. In my work, I do my best to work in community with parents to create the most supportive environment possible for children. This budget proposals cut things that create these supportive environments, like homeless shelters, medical funding, school funding, and library funding. These cuts are not ways to actually support children. They are cuts to support systems for our state's most vulnerable of children.
Betsy	Hamilton County	Discrimination doesn't belong in Ohio!
Elizabeth	Hamilton County	The proposed state budget is an attack on Ohio citizens, especially those who rely on the government the most and who have the greatest need. Government should be the foundation of a strong society and Ohio's government has been weakening our Ohio society year after year for over a decade. Do not allow this proposal to take effect and do damage and harm to millions of Ohioans, many of whom are children who don't have a vote to represent their wishes but who will pay the steepest price for these decisions.
Anita	Hamilton County	Don't do this!
Adam	Private	The "pro-life" party until those lives aren't being lived the way you want. It is so hateful and shameful to discriminate against such a small percentage of the population who is simply begging for the right to exist in peace. Please veto this, or Ohio's will become even more unsafe for so many people who already face discrimination and hatred every day.
Susan (she, her)	Montgomery	Discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community does not belong in Ohio's state budget! Please vote against HB 96! Thank you!
Susan (she, her)	Montgomery	Discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community does not belong in Ohio's state budget! Please vote against HB 96! Thank you!



Melody	Hamilton	Trans and gay folks deserve to live peacefully anywhere, and it's absolutely vile and disgusting to target an entire group that only makes up 1% of the population. Passing legislation like this promotes violence.
Tyler	Franklin County	Teachers in Ohio are already struggling to provide for our students. This bill would make it even harder for us to do our jobs.
Melissa	Montgomery County	House Bill 96 includes discriminatory language against real people in Ohio. This cannot stand. Ohio is known for being a state of kind, conscientious people, and as one of them, I will not stand behind anyone who encourages discrimination against any person. Vote NO on HB 96. It hurts good Ohioans.
Krystofer	Lucas county	I never wanted to be different from anyone, I never wanted to stand out. I only ever wanted to be normal. Hormone replacement therapy is the only way I've feel normal in my entire life of trying to live conservatively and be what others want. I hope that you can try to think about the pain that comes from having a brain that's wired in the womb to be different from your biological sex. It's not about destroying societal structure, it's not even always about authenticity (even though that's the goal), it's just about being able to exist and feel normal like everyone else who seem to naturally be able to be happy and content and love themselves easier than you because of something out of your control. Nobody asks to be born differently, and the ultimate goal is usually to feel normal, not to stand out. Refusing access to care makes us have to stand out whether we want to or not.
Lauren Meszaros	Stark County	I am writing in opposition to the discriminatory add-ons to the state budget, particularly with regards to the LGBTQ+ community. Though Governor DeWine claims Ohio is a welcoming state for LGBTQ+ people, in practice this is proved to be untrue again and again. This instance is particularly galling as it tacks on human rights issues to what should be a simple budget bill. I am a queer Ohioan. I am also a worker, a community volunteer, a homeowner, an avid reader and library user. This bill sends a direct message that I am no longer welcome in the state I was born in. I urge the senate and governor to reject the harmful and discriminatory add-ons and focus on the task at hand: budgeting, not discriminating.
Patty	Hamilton	A budget bill should contains only relevant things for a budget, not what should be multiple bills. So many of these changes will horrible obstacles and discomfort for innocent people. History is watching, please do the right thing.
Christine	Hamilton	Anti-LGBTQIA+ policy & LGBTQIA+ discrimination have no place in our budget or our state!
Steve	Hamilton County	No discrimination in the budget bill. No discrimination period.

Anna	Franklin County	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As a woman living in Franklin County, the proposed provisions in the state budget regarding budget - for example, cutting the funding of homeless shelters that provide help to youth who are undergoing gender transition; cutting federal funding for gender affirming care; cutting public school funding and library funding; and so much more - will actively harm myself and those in my community. There can be no good that comes from these parts of the budget; at the very least, they are political actions that must be considered in individual bills. I implore you to reconsider and revise the current proposed budget.</p>
Ariel Budin	Cleveland, Ohio....unfortunately ....	<p>Hey, Mr. Dewine? Can you please leave me, and other lgbt+ residents of Ohio alone?! I'm physically, mentally, and psychologically drained from the discrimination, and potential threats that MY states government (including yourself) has made towards my life. What you're proposing would erase and censor our existence, and make this state we call home uninhabitable. I know I can't change your (incorrect) opinions of lgbt citizens, specially trans folks, but at the very least can you leave us alone?</p> <p>Im so sick of my existence being used for political gain, which by the way you are doing. Life in Ohio isn't the greatest with little job opportunities, as well as inflation. PLEASE, do one good thing in your meaningless, grifting career, and leave us alone, and let us live our lives discriminately free.</p> <p>We've done this song and dance before January of 2024, and I'm not putting up with it again. This is beyond disgusting, Dewine!</p>
Gretchen	Medina County	<p>Discrimination written into the Ohio budget is wrong. Cutting necessary and scientifically and medically backed proven care for gender dysphoria from Medicaid is discrimination and dangerous and will cause grave harm to Ohio residents. Also cutting funds from homeless shelters that are affirming to lgbtq youth is also discrimination that will cost lives. I would highly recommend reading "Making Room" by Carl Siciliano who started the Ali Forney Center in NY or reach out to him. He spent years working with homeless lgbtq youth. Providing a safe affirming place where they can sleep at night is imperative for positive outcomes for these kids.</p>
kathleen	montgomery	<p>veto this bill this is very harmful to the lgbtq community not to mention millions could lose there health insurance and this will harm peoples health general if u allow lead into the water we drink you want another flint michigan on ur hands</p>

Elliot	Scioto	<p>These are policies actively trying to make people's lives worse. This is not in the best interests of Ohioans, and changes to things like gender markers and whatnot will only be a mess, as the current administrations passport situation has been. Ohio schools already struggle, we see it every day here in Southern Ohio, seeing music programs crumble. Even if you don't care about that, what comes after that? What sport or program goes next?</p> <p>I would like to say that I am a transgender Ohioan. I would also like to say that the people of Ohio don't care about us being part of their lives nearly as much as you think. Us having medical care hurts no one. Men do testosterone shots, women get plastic surgery, the same thing transgender people do. Why should it be restricted from us and not them?</p> <p>Many, if not all of these policies, are failing Ohioans, leaving them without clean water (another thing the people of Southern Ohio struggle with) and out in the cold. Any one of these is a stain on the "Heart of America."</p>
Skipper	Hamilton County	<p>This proposed budget is absolutely disgusting. From dismantling our great parks for the highest bidder, to restricting funding and access to information for our libraries, to lowering the quality of our water, to invading our personal privacy, this budget is rotten to the core. I am also deeply, personally disgusted by the attempts to attack LGBTQ rights and dismantle personal freedoms under the guise of a budget change. What sort of a government favors money over its people? How can you say you stand for the wellness of your constituents as you put more lead in our water and gut our public school systems? Rest assured, anyone who votes for this budget in its current form has solidly lost my vote forever.</p>

Wren	Franklin County	<p>HB 96 would cause so much harm to Ohio. Cutting public funding for the library, redefining gender, limiting access to LGBTQ+ material. I could go on and on with all of the things I disagree with. We say Ohio is a welcoming place for all, but actions speak louder than words. These policy changes at the very least should be proposed as individual bills and heard for public comment. I believe in an Ohio that is here for everyone and that is all about strengthening our communities. All Ohioans have a place in this great state. Please don't dismantle our committee with all of the horrid ideas that are in HB 96. Please stand up for queer Ohioans and the public institutions that foster this amazing state.</p>
Shelby	Cleveland, zip code 44119	<p>I'm a librarian and I take issue with the stipulation in the budget proposal that states materials in libraries with any LGBTQ+ content be made inaccessible to minors. There is absolutely no reason this language should be present in a budget proposal. Librarians are trained experts in responding to the needs of their communities, and librarians--NOT politicians--should be the ones to decide which books to make available to their patrons. If individual parents don't want their kids to read books with "LGBTQ+ content," that decision should be made by the parents, again, NOT by politicians.</p>
Ian	Summit	<p>HB96 would limit my access to much needed health care resources, eliminate my emergency shelters if I were to become homeless and overall would erase what my community has worked so hard to build in the last several decades! Discrimination does NOT belong in HB96!!!</p>

Alex	Cuyahoga County	It is abhorrent that Ohio is considering sneaking in discriminatory policies and language into the state budget. Our state is diverse and our LGBTQ residents deserve safety and community provided from the state that they live in. Other text additions, including a state abortion database, and the leasing of public lands to oil companies, is so incredibly backwards it is almost unbelievable.
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