

Trans Unity Coalition

House Bill 96 Testimony to the Senate Health Committee, May 15 2025

Bree Taylor, Founder & Executive Director

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and Members Ingram, Manchester, Roegner, and Romanchuk of the Senate Health Committee, I appreciate this opportunity to publicly speak regarding HB 96.

My name is Bree Taylor, I am blessed by she/her pronouns, and I founded and serve as executive director to the transgender advocacy non-profit Trans Unity Coalition.

Over the past month, our team has been providing awareness to several of the provisions contained in House Bill 96. On Tuesday I spoke on youth homelessness cuts and I thank you all for taking the time to listen, as well as the public who followed me out to talk more about the impact of this bill. Many will be caught in the crossfire, and these are Ohio's kids we are talking about: the ones who are abandoned and the ones who have lost their homes.

As a refresher:

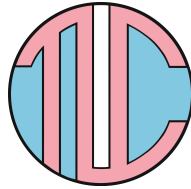
Line Items 133338 through 133346, defining Section 291.20, refer to cutting all public DOH general revenue funds set for youth homelessness that covers both youth and pregnant women, should a shelter promote or affirm transition, through wording broad enough to include the transition of not only those utilizing said shelters but also staff.

As a former foster child, access to shelters was the last line of defense from living on the streets, and as someone who experienced that as well I want to make it very clear: shelters save lives and they are vital to any society caring for its people. **But they must be equitable: accessible and welcoming of all people, including the transgender community.** Much like any safe space: a firehouse, a house of worship; a shelter must be maintained as a non-political environment freely open to all.

Roughly 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ+ in America¹, showing a clear disproportionality from the base 7-9% LGBTQ+ of all Americans. That is practically flipping a coin, and it should not come as a surprise that in this day and age many underage runaways and those kicked out of their families came into that position simply because they are queer, and especially because they are transgender.

Yesterday I shared that 42% of queer youth make an attempt on their own lives. In the time it took to share this testimony, that is four new attempts, but in the time since I spoke since yesterday: 1,444.

These are not phantom numbers, but cold statistics that speak to the need to do better to protect queer and trans youth. And often these are the kids that were rejected simply for who they are. They deserve love and inclusion, and not more rejection.



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In addition to the youth homelessness funding changes, another provision which the House needlessly added into the budget cut is Section 9.561 is one opposed to menstrual products in men's restroom, which in full wording says:

"No government entity shall place menstrual products in the men's restrooms of a public building."

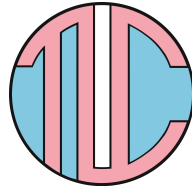
Transgender men and others can absolutely require these basic items as well. This is a physiological truth and not erasable by sheer policy. As a budget bill, legislators should be more focused on improving Ohio, and not providing a soapbox for creepy Creech who simply cut a deal to sneak this into the omnibus at the last minute.

Representative Creech's provision is also sloppy. If a government entity cannot place these products, Trans Unity Coalition is happy to implement its MENStrual Program in Ohio, where we educate the public on how to legally and safely distribute crowdsourced menstrual products into mens' restrooms and other spaces in a legally-compliant manner according to this wording. Beyond that, enforcement costs alone should make this an unnecessary escalation. If a government entity cannot place them, the people will, and we will have Representative Creech to thank for that.

Please reconsider these provisions. On behalf of myself and the many who did not feel safe to send testimony, please, we implore you to remove this and all other harmful provisions which will hurt Ohio's transgender community. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Bree Taylor; May 15, 2025



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1: Morton, M. H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (2018). Missed opportunities: LGBTQ youth homelessness in America. Chicago, IL.