

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Eleanor Thome, I've lived in Cleveland for most of my life, and I am strongly opposed to this bill and how drastically it cuts from crucial pillars of a healthy society, such as library systems and equalizing third spaces. The Cleveland Public Library is one of the most active library systems in the nation, with over 7.4 million cardholders. Libraries are essential, a network of resources for knowledge and information, a place where people come together and share ideas, and, especially in our city, a beloved symbol of commitment to our history and goal of providing education to as many people as possible. My public library is a lifesaver to me, and I cannot overstate how important they are to thriving communities.