

Prepared Testimony of Cookie Dixon
Before the Medicaid Committee
Hearing On House Bill no.96
May 6th, 2025

Chairman Romanchuk, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the committee, I would like to sincerely thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

My name is Cookie Dixon. The reason I am here today, is that I am a trans woman. I am 20 years old, and have been living in Ohio my entire life. I spent some of my formative years right here, in Columbus. I have been out as trans for 3 years, on hormones for 2, and have otherwise been a member of the LGBT community for over 7. Even though I came out only 3 years ago, I have been dealing with gender issues my entire life.

Taking hormones has changed my life. Transitioning has been possibly one of the best decisions I have ever made for my mental and physical health, and otherwise sense of self. However, I have been unemployed for nearly a year. Hormones have been difficult to afford, and I have been unable to pay for other healthcare services. And very recently, I was approved for Medicaid.

This bill will do nothing but harm for my fellow trans individuals here in Ohio. We are less than one percent of the population, we do nothing but keep to ourselves, and yet we keep finding ourselves repeatedly attacked for simply being who we are.

Countless studies have shown the positive effects of gender transition, a massive majority of healthcare professionals agree that transitioning does nothing but good. One percent of the one percent regret gender affirming care, with some studies showing a regret rate as low as 0.3% for gender affirming surgery. To compare, the regret rate of knee surgery is 30%. The regret rate of having children is around 12%. The regret rate of tattoos is 24%. and yet we don't see any legislation against these.

I don't wish to be a political person. I know nothing of taxes, land disputes, agriculture legalities, or most other political things. But when I, trans loved ones, and other members of my community, are attacked for simply being ourselves, I can't stand back and watch my rights be stripped away. How I, as a woman, am demonized and ostracized just for having a slightly different connection to womanhood.

I hope you listen to my plea, and the pleas of others who have come today. I hope you can choose to see us as people, for who we are, rather than choose to strip our medical rights away. I hope you can make the right decision.

Thank you.

Sources:

Trans US Population: <https://www.politifact.com/article/2023/jul/13/how-many-trans-people-are-there-in-the-us-and-why/>

Regret Rate of GAC: <https://www.gendergp.com/new-study-confirms-regret-rates-of-gender-affirming-surgery-are-non-existent/>

Knee Surgery Regret Rate: <https://kffhealthnews.org/news/up-to-a-third-of-knee-replacements-pack-pain-and-regret/>

Regret Rate of Having Children: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37796606/>

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Tattoo Regret Rate: <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/08/15/32-of-americans-have-a-tattoo-including-22-who-have-more-than-one/>