

Dear Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson Jr., and Members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thanks for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 321.

"Mr. Hopkins likes for me to sit on his lap during movies Mommy," was what my sweet 6 year old daughter said that day. My gut turned and our nightmare began. Our daughter was a first grader at Clearcreek Elementary in Springboro, OH from 2018-2019. She was one of the 88 little girls violated by their gym teacher, Mr. Hopkins. He was tried and found guilty on March 13th, 2020. We have spent the last year in agony with sleepless nights, and filled with rage because this didn't just happen... but happened in SCHOOL! Our daughter will forever question who to trust all because someone took advantage of her and exposed her to the evil in this world. She knows now...at 6 years old... SIX that EVIL exists. I strongly believe if Erin's Law would have been in place, most, if not all, of those sweet girls would have spoken up sooner. They would have been taught the tools to recognize what was being done to them.

At 6 you seek compassion, acceptance, love, rewards for a "job well done." At 6 you don't know that the "boogie man" is real. At 6 you are unaware that sometimes people don't have your best interest at heart. At 6 years old you shouldn't have to know tornadoes are not just in THE WIZARD OF OZ..... but they do. At 6 years old you shouldn't have to know that a fire is for more than making smores....but they do. At 6 years old you shouldn't have to know that shooting happens more than with a nerf gun.... but they do.

We, as parents TRY to teach as much as we can to our babies. By assuming every home is the same and all education at home regarding this matter is the same ... is simply turning your cheek.

We can DO better!!! We can BE better by partnering with the schools to implement Erin's Law to better prepare and educate our children about inappropriate touch. Please, I beg of you... PLEASE let's stand together and BE BETTER!!!

Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson Jr., and Members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB321. Please pass this important legislation.