

Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson Jr., and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 321 (Erin's Law).

I am writing today to State Representative Lipps in support of passing Erin's Law in Ohio. I believe teaching young students their rights to their physical body and how to communicate if they are experiencing abuse is critical for identifying issues in school systems as early as possible. I am an aunt to a 7 year old student that was one of the 34 counts of gross sexual imposition by a trusted gym teacher at Clearcreek Elementary School in Springboro, OH. I believe the educational goals of Erin's Law could help young, impressionable children better understand and identify when they are being taking advantage of by trusted adults in their environment at school, at home, at daycare, at a friend's house, anywhere. It is our responsibility to protect our children and I sincerely believe this program could help change and ultimately save lives by preventing or limiting the length of exposure to sexual abuse, allowing emotional and physical healing through early detection and reporting. I truly believe that with Erin's Law in place in Ohio that children in trouble may come forward sooner than ever before and we will have a chance to minimize the time abusers have to hurt others. Thirty-four little lives have been changed forever due to one man who went unreported. Erin's Law will equip students, teachers and parents with the skills and tools necessary to reduce that impact in the future.

Thank you for your time and your consideration on this matter, I appreciate your service to Ohio and all that you do to keep our families safe!