



Center FOR Christian Virtue

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To: Chair Andrew Brenner
Vice Chair Louis Blessing
Ranking Member Paula Hicks-Hudson
Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee

From: David Mahan
Policy Director
Center for Christian Virtue

Re: Support for HB 105 Amendment (AM_134_3584)

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

My name is David Mahan and I am here on behalf of the Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization. I am pleased to be here today in support of the amended version of HB 105 (Erin's Law), which will provide developmentally appropriate instruction and training in sexual violence prevention by professionals who have experience in handling cases involving child sexual abuse. The House version of this bill that we opposed is the perfect example of how a righteous title and some powerful testimonies can be manipulated to advance terrible legislation. Without the intervention of the bill's namesake Erin Merryn and the safeguards included in Senator O'Brien's amendment, Erin's Law (HB 105) would have been nothing more than another Trojan Horse for radical special interest groups. As Erin testified before this committee on June 7, 2022,¹ groups like Planned Parenthood have tried to co-opt her legislation in other states, in order to propagate their radically progressive brand of sex education to children, without the ability for parents to opt out. While this was never Erin's intention, this strategic partnership has been adopted as a "best practice" by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, who recommends that sexual violence prevention programs be integrated specifically into so-called "comprehensive sex education"

¹ Erin Merryn testified in committee that Planned Parenthood tried to attach their CSE agenda to Erin's Law in New York (time: 17:38 - 18:30)

<https://www.ohiochannel.org/video/ohio-senate-primary-and-secondary-education-committee-6-7-2022>



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(CSE) programming²- the same sexually explicit type of classroom instruction that has been driving outraged parents to school board meetings across the country, including here in Ohio. For an example of how CSE programs approach the Sexual Violence Prevention topic of “Consent”, click on the link in this footnote.³

Children and victims of abuse deserve more than to be used as political pawns to provide cover for activist groups who boldly admit that they use sex education as a vehicle for their brand of “social change”,⁴ and that is why we opposed the House version of this bill. However, we are cautiously optimistic that the original intent of Erin Merryn to protect children from abuse without those efforts being exploited by radical special interest groups, could be achieved with the guardrails prescribed in (AM_134_3584). Therefore, we urge support of Senator O’Brien’s amended version of HB 105.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of this proposed legislation. If the committee has any questions for me, I will do my best to answer them.

The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God’s blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. www.ccv.org -- (513) 733-5775

² **National Sexual Violence Resource Center** - Key findings from “Comprehensive Sexuality Education as a Primary Prevention Strategy for Sexual Violence Perpetration”
https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Comprehensive%20Sexuality%20Education_Final508_0.pdf

Illinois Make SAFE Taskforce Report 2020 (page .22)
https://www.isbe.net/Documents_MSAFE/Make-SAFE-Final-Report-20200903.pdf

Ohio Alliance to end Sexual Violence: Erin’s Law frequently asked questions submitted at the HB105 interested party meeting (page 3). They reference the above listed Illinois report’s “Best practice” of linking sexual violence prevention with CSE

Washington State Erin’s Law Workgroup 2019 (pages 1, 24 and 25)
<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/hivsexualhealth/pubdocs/Erin%27s%20Law%20Report%20Final%20ADA.pdf>

Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region’s “Get Real” CSE program (Consent and Interpersonal Violence topics covered in middle and high school)

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-southwest-ohio/education-and-training/programs-for-schools>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNN3nAevQKY>

⁴ **Sexuality Information and Education council of the United States (SIECUS).** SIECUS has been one the strongest national voices for comprehensive sex education for over 50 years
<https://siecus.org/sex-ed-is-a-vehicle-for-social-change/>