Good afternoon Chair Bird, Vice Chair Fowler-Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

My name is Cynthia Sheets. I am a parent and also an active member of Central Ohio Parents Rights in Education.

My family moved to Hilliard in 2010, seeking a new start and a better education for my child. At that time, Hilliard was ranked "Excellent" so I felt confident, that my son would receive a great public education.

Since that time, our ranking has changed and our scores have tanked. Hilliard City School District, who was always ranked in the top fifty, in the state, has dropped to 134.

The most recent HCSC report card shows, the performance indicators for our third graders in math is 66.9%, fourth grade English is 71%, fifth grade Math and science are in the 60's. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade math are in the 50's. Our high school student English language is barely above 70 and geometry is only at 55.5%. Only one performance indicator is in the 80's and zero are in the 90's. These are only a few of the performance indicators. While state tests don't show the entire picture, it is clear, we not providing the public education children deserve, to become successful and productive adults.

Our schools are now over run with DEI, SEL and CRT. Assignments are no longer focused on teaching our children reading, writing and math skills. Said assignments are teaching our children to be victims, that they are limited by their skin color, that being white is bad and that one can choose their gender. A small number of activist teachers, along with a powerful union, have taken over our schools. Days are more focused on gender ideology than actual biology. Activists teachers are promoting their agenda and our administration and school board, while violating their own policies, are doing nothing to stop this.

I want to share with you, an assignment that was given in Olentangy. The questions are racists. (see assignment) I have no doubt, a similar assignment could be found in Hilliard. Hilliard teachers also provided pro-noun assignments asking students what pronoun they want to use at school and what pronoun, they want used, when the teacher speaks to their parent. (see assignment)

Our libraries have been infested with pornography. I've brought you samples of such. As an avid reader, I do not support book banning. I DO support educational content in school libraries. Honestly, I find zero educational value in the book samples, I am providing. The samples I have brought you, are a tip of the ice berg, of library content. There are literally 100's of inappropriate books. I and another Hilliard parent, are reviewing books for reconsideration. The compromise presented to our school district was, if books cannot be removed, they are moved to an area, requiring parental permission. We've spent the last 6 months, for one book review, with no current resolution.

Students, including Christian, Catholic and Muslim, are being forced to view and participate in inappropriate assignments that violate their religious freedoms. Parents must have an option, for their children.

Desiring choice does not mean anti-gay or anti-anything. Students who are suffering with gender dysphoria should not be celebrating the normalcy of such. It is NOT normal to believe you can change your gender. Your biology and chromosomes don't lie. Feelings do not and should never outweigh FACT. Children with this dysphoria should be cared for by true professionals, not activist teachers, pushing their own agenda.

For these reasons and so many others, I urge you to support HB 11. Parental rights are paramount and should be respected. Parents should be able to choose where their children are educated, especially in today's climate. Children deserve the opportunity to attend a school that is focused on Academic Excellence and traditional values.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions, you may have.

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