

Linda Harvey Testimony Am. Sub HB 8

Thank you so much for permitting me to submit testimony in favor of Am. Sub. HB 8, to enact a law providing more robust support for parental rights in Ohio.

I am president of Mission America and also serve on the board of Protect Ohio Children. I have also been a radio talk show host at the Central Ohio station, The Word Columbus, for 14 years. My articles appear in many publications across the Internet.

This is to point out that I have been covering school issues coast to coast for over two decades. I testified before this body first in the late 1990s. And back then, parental rights were also a serious issue. But never more than now, because we did not adequately address the problem then. We did not, back over twenty years ago, stem the rise of divisive school actions that already threatened to undermine families and endanger children.

Ohio schools are now exploding with incidents of children being presented adult-level sexuality without parental consent. For many details, please review the over 200 school districts listed at Protect Ohio Children's [indoctrination map page](#). For instance, school districts with policies to "affirm" a confused student's opposite sex identity at school and withhold this life-changing information from parents include Brunswick, Dublin, Hilliard, Olentangy, Parma, Kings Local, Columbus City and others. If not for whistleblower parents, teachers and staff, the public might never know how these cruel and inhumane actions are damaging children possibly forever.

AM Sub HB 8 is correct in establishing a parental permission/notice procedure for material with sexual content in schools. In recent years, numerous publishers and curriculum producers have breached not just the bounds of taste and helpful content, but have thrust material into schools that resembles the most radical of XX-rated pornography as well as radical, anti-American extremism. Many of us believe the main motive is profit. For just one of many examples, review this report about [Big Walnut schools](#) or this revelation about [Mentor schools](#), and the books being recommended in these districts. They are filled with wildly inappropriate content. Some of it is obscene material and some of it is racially inaccurate, hateful and divisive.

And the sex education instruction is in some districts flagrantly explicit in content, promoting/normalizing teen sexual activity and many high risk practices, in stark violation of state law (3313.6011). See for instance, [Worthington](#) schools or [Columbus City Schools](#).

Why do schools go this direction? Well, some don't, but too many do and the reason goes back to special interests who have undue influence in schools. There are too many "education" professional groups --OEA, ALA, ASCA, NCTE, etc.-- who are deeply vested in choosing to allow the violation of childhood innocence, even at times encouraging it and pressuring their members to do so also. Way too many teachers and school officials are going along with putting this trash in front of children, often believing they have no choice and no one has their backs if they refuse.

We need to help them refuse.

It is incumbent on responsible officials to put the brakes on this child corruption. Whether the material shows up in “comprehensive sexuality education” curricula (which violates ORC 3313.6011) or in obscene library books, or in school events and programs, schools need to have the backing of state law to say “no” and return to a laser-focus on academics. Literacy proficiency rates are abysmal in many Ohio schools. None of this material helps that situation, but only distracts.

Please support AM Sub HB 8. Thank you.