

Hi, my name is Annie Stillion and I am here to ask you to not pass H.B 8. If this bill was enacted when I was in school. I would have been shot dead by my mother. I know this because she threatened to shoot me if I ever said I was any form of gay. This proved later on to not be just a threat as a rumor went around school that I was gay. Despite my best efforts this rumor managed to get back to my mother. She proceeded to beat me until I lied to her convincingly enough for her to believe me. This is the danger that this bill presents. Kids will be put at risk of the same treatment that I had growing up. They will be beaten, or even worse, killed.

School is supposed to be a fun and exciting time to be with friends, get your education, and discover what person you're going to be. It is not a time where you should have to hide in fear of who you are, what you're interested in, or even what you want to be in the fear of retaliation, abuse, or even getting killed. Please do not pass H.B 8 to keep these kids safe.