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Committee Chair Brenner

Ohio Senate Education Committee

Dear Chair Brenner,

I am writing to OPPOSE HB 8. I am concerned that it will cause harm to students and educators.

The subjectivity of the constraints on educational topics, combined with the review process, is a recipe for targeted harassment of teachers by small groups of parents. Teachers will be spending time guessing at what parts of their curricula could be interpreted as problematic and revising them, despite having no evidence of issues or concern to date. If they guess incorrectly, they could be subject to serious consequences to their careers and livelihoods.

Additionally, forcing staff to contact parents about questioning students, even in the face of known abuse, is not helping students or families.

This bill inserts government oversight at the expense of expert knowledge and discretion.

Sincerely,

Erin Kotch