



Since 2007: Protecting Faith, Family, Freedom,  
and the Sanctity of Life

Written Testimony of John Stover  
President, Ohio Value Voters  
Senate Education Committee  
House Bill 8  
April 23, 2024

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking members of the Committee. My name is John Stover and I am the President of Ohio Value Voters. Our organization promotes the values of Faith, Life, Families, and Religious Freedom. Since 2007, our purpose has been to educate, inform, and influence voters and elected officials in Ohio. We are independent of any political party, religious organization, or political action committee. Ohio Value Voters is a registered 501(c)(4) organization.

Our organization is in support of House Bill 8 with the following proposed amendments:

Repeal of ORC 5122.04 – “Outpatient services for minors without knowledge or consent of parent or guardian.” [Section 5122.04 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

House Bill 8 should be amended to add the words “or legal guardian” after the words of “parent” or “parental.”

All “opt-out” references should be amended to “opt-in” to remain consistent with ORC 3313.6011. “Instruction in venereal disease education emphasizing abstinence.” [Section 3313.6011 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

Though the word “opt-in” is not used, the following text language of ORC 3313.6011 reflects the same:

(2) If a school district or school chooses to offer additional instruction in venereal disease or sexual education not specified in division (C)(1) of this section, the district or school shall notify all parents or guardians of that instruction, including the name of any instructor, vendor name, if applicable, and the name of the curriculum being used. No district or school shall offer that instruction to a student unless that student's parent or guardian has submitted written permission for that student to receive that instruction. Division (E) of this section does not apply to division (C)(2) of this section.

It is also important to remain consistent with the language of ORC 3313.60(G). Prescribed curriculum. [Section 3313.60 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

Section (G):

(G) Upon the request of any parent or legal guardian of a student, the board of education of any school district shall permit the parent or guardian to **promptly examine**, with respect to the parent's or guardian's own child:

(1) Any survey or questionnaire, prior to its administration to the child; (2) Any textbook, workbook, software, video, or other instructional materials being used by the district in connection with the instruction of the child; (3) Any completed and graded test taken or survey

or questionnaire filled out by the child; (4) Copies of the statewide academic standards and each model curriculum developed pursuant to section 3301.079 of the Revised Code, which copies shall be available at all times during school hours in each district school building.

Emphasis is placed on the words "promptly examine."

Parents or legal guardians have the right to know what material their child is exposed to in a timely manner. The word "promptly" means immediately, without delay.

Finally, with the passage of Senate Bill 1, in 2023, the Governor's office and specifically the Director (and future Deputy Director) of K-12 education has sole responsibility to ensure that compliance is met in Ohio's schools with the passage of House Bill 8.

It is respectfully requested that the Senate Education Committee vote to pass House Bill 8 after making the aforementioned amendments.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Stover".

John Stover, President  
Ohio Value Voters