

To: HB 8 committee members

Fr: John Waggoner, concerned Ohio citizen

I'm writing to express my opposition to HB 8 as a grandparent of 3 LGBTQ children. This Bill is particularly divisive to children who are LGBTQ or who are wondering about their sexuality yet have not told their parents.

Many children know or feel their parents will not be supportive of their sexuality and it will be disruptive to their home life. In such situations we know that parents who are not supportive will either attempt to talk them out of their LGBTQ preference or, even worse, abuse them in some way. Worst case scenario the parents will throw them out of the house before they are old enough to support themselves.

The negative actions of these type parents will cause mental health issues, depression or even suicide.

This bill also creates unnecessary bureaucracy that ties up educators in paperwork and compliance, leaving less time for teaching our kids. Teachers will feel the pain of having to report a child they know may be abused at home as a result of being required to report the child's sexuality. Teachers who don't feel it's their duty or concern to report a child will live with the "sting" of having created a problematic situation for the child.

Schools have been handling these situations for years without such dangerous mandated consequences. Let's just let them continue to do so without this harmful legislation.

I keep wondering how our Ohio legislators will feel someday when they learn their own child, grandchild, niece or nephew is LGBTQ and they were responsible for passing all these bills that are so harmful to the LGBTQ community and do nothing to assist Ohioans.

The other bills are passed but you still have a chance to drop this one and do the right thing.

Maybe the legislature could work on a bill to provide affordable and available child care to all parents in the state based on their economic status. That would seem to help the entire state and even help bring workers into our state.

Thank you for hearing my concerns. John Waggoner