

Chairperson Brenner,
Vice Chair O'Brien,
Ranking Member Ingram,
Ranking Member Sykes,
and members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Julie Stout. I was sexually molested as a minor by staff at John F. Kennedy High School in Warren, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 8.

It is extraordinarily difficult for child victims of sexual abuse to come forward at all. We as a society have decided that teachers should be Mandated Reporters of child abuse, because often, teachers are the first adults that victims of sexual abuse feel safe enough to confide in. House Bill 8 makes our schools places where children get the message that it is not a safe place to discuss sex, alienating child victims of sex abuse from the only Mandated Reporter that they may see on a frequent basis. House Bill 8 is a big, blinking green light for pedophiles to come to Ohio to molest our children. You might as well roll out the carpet for deviant abusers.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this abhorrent bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Julie A Stout