

Testimony Against HB 8:

My name is Sophie Pipik, I'm a constituent from Lorain County, and I strongly urge you to vote no on House Bill 8. This bill would place unnecessary and onerous restrictions on teachers and schools, overriding local decision-making with rigid mandates made by outsiders who don't understand the needs of students or their families. It does nothing to keep students safe, and everything to take away their freedom of speech by censoring classroom discussion and cutting off access to vital information.

Shortly after I started high school, my private school imposed a similar rule shutting down discussion of sexuality and gender. Not only did this hamper class discussions and tacitly enable bullying on the lines of sexual and gender identity, but many of our best and most dedicated teachers simply left, to work somewhere they were allowed to do their jobs. My education rapidly dropped in quality. This legislation would drive good educators out of Ohio schools and leave their students silenced and vulnerable to bullies.

Vote no on House Bill 8.

Thank you for your time, and your commitment to Ohio's schools.