

"To whom it may concern;

My name is Nick Wright. I am a social worker in Franklin County that has been working with individuals and families since 2017. I am writing testimony in opposition of HB8. The continued onslaught of attacks against the LGBTQ community in the state of Ohio has left me feeling defeated and hopeless, both personally and professionally.

HB8 is a gross overreach of Government that will result in severe consequences for an already marginalized and vulnerable population. A recently published study from The Trevor Project (2024) details the strong link between anti-trans legislation and increased suicide risk for trans identifying youth. The gross hypocrisy of espousing "pro life" sentiments while simultaneously advocating to pass legislation that will result in death is astounding and leaves me heart broken and confused.

I cannot effectively complete the duties of my professional work with legislation that violates ethical confidentiality agreements between myself and clients. Language in HB8 is written broadly enough to deny comparison to other similar "don't say gay" bills, while leaving enough room to promote an oppressive and anti LGBTQ agenda.

Sincerely,



Nick Wright, MSW

Citations:

Lee, W.Y., Hobbs, J.N., Hobaica, S. *et al.* State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA. *Nat Hum Behav* 8, 2096–2106 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>"