

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 8
Ohio Senate Education Committee
December 9, 2024

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jona Hilari. I am a parent of two school-aged children in Hilliard City Schools. I vehemently oppose House Bill 8.

I trust educators to know what is good for students. Also as a parent I am already an active participant in my children's learning in collaboration with their teachers. The guidance from this bill does not reflect what I want my kids to learn. The vagueness in this bill will limit the ability of teachers to provide needed education about sex and sexuality that would keep our kids safe.

I also believe that this bill targets LGBTQ+ students who are already at higher risk for bullying from peers. All students, including LGBTQ+ students deserve to feel safe in their school environment. Requiring the sharing of personal student information without the student's consent can be extremely dangerous for students who may be in unsafe situations in their homes because of who they are.

I also oppose how this bill promotes distrust of educators. We are already experiencing teacher shortages and bills like this will drive away educators from our state.

I am asking you to please vote NO on HB 8.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jona Hilario
Parent