

To: Senate Education Committee  
From: Amy M. Beam

Date: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Subject: House Bill 8, Unsafe Students Act

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

I am writing in opposition to HB 8. In reading this bill, I failed to see any compelling argument for passing a bill that seems to be for show rather than to the benefit of Ohio students.

This bill uses overly vague language and buzz words to define things like "gender ideology" and "sexuality." It seems to emphasize a parent's right to communicate with the school's teachers and administrators when I am certain that this is already the case. I cannot understand what problem this bill is seeking to solve. There are already laws in place that allow parents to opt their children out of being exposed to discussion or content that they deem inappropriate for their children. Is the legislature assuming that parents who don't object to accurate sex education curricula don't know what their kids are learning rather than assuming that their parents' consent to the material? What evidence is there that this is the case?

Additionally, a bill very similar to this one was voted down at the federal level due to its broad scope, vague language, and unclear intent.

This bill, and others like it, are clearly an effort to codify religious beliefs in the school system that make it less safe for families who are different than the norm and intimidate teachers and school administrators.

Respectfully,  
Amy Beam  
Fremont, Ohio