

## HB 8 testimony

Civil rights are under attack in Ohio. Censoring educational materials to exclude pertinent information about identity, sexual health and safety, and minority groups... how can we expect this to empower our children? Knowledge is power. Censorship in school curriculum in regard to LGBTQ+ material will not prevent queer students from existing - their identity is rooted in so much more than we could ever write up in a textbook for them. It is far more harmful to perpetuate cycles of hatred towards minorities, which this bill aims to do proudly. HB 8 is full of hatred, and is aiming to strike fear into queer children and children from queer or non-nuclear families, instead of empowering and supporting all children to love their fellow Ohioan, American, HUMAN. This is absolutely distasteful hatred that adults are pushing onto literal children. But as an adult who was the scared, confused child who didn't understand all the limits adults put on love, I will fight for these kids. And no matter what bills you threaten us with, queer joy and queer love will exist and persist. Please make the correct decisions for our youth. Don't punish them because of your own fears- use this opportunity to grow, not to make others shrink.