

Opponent Testimony for HB 8
Senate Education Committee
December 8, 2024

Chairman 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 Carmen Phillips.

I am a concerned citizen and member of a proud Ohio family.

I am here to oppose HB 8 due to the negative impact and consequences its passing would have on the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of many Ohio students and school staff.

I have three nieces who I am excited to see grow up and go to school in Ohio. They are young, happy, and eager to learn. They also have family members who they love who are not straight. They could also very easily learn as they grow up that they themselves are not straight or cisgendered. I am concerned that if HB 8 were to pass, they could learn from their school that they or their loved ones are not normal, are not accepted, are not loved. And that possibility breaks my heart.

I also know that there are some families that are not as accepting as mine. I know that children of those families may only have their resources at school to feel safe. I fear what could happen to those students if teachers and counselors were forced to deal with impossible, conflicting rules and obligations caused by HB 8. And that is not something I want for my community.

This is why, for the children of Ohio and their teachers and counselors, I oppose HB 8. And I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no on this dangerous bill.

Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,
Carmen Phillips