

To 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 Liana Block. I am the proud mother of two young public school students in North Canton, and I am strongly opposed to House Bill 8.

I believe this bill is part of a larger attempt to politicize public education in Ohio, which is inappropriate and distracts from the actual purpose of education, i.e., learning. Parents and guardians should be involved in public education, but I fear that parents and other community members would feel empowered by this bill to micromanage, and even intimidate, teachers. I am also deeply concerned about the effects HB 8 could have on LGBTQ+ students. Requiring a teacher to essentially "out" a child places an unfair burden on teachers and could be dangerous for students in unsupportive or abusive households. Ohio's teachers are already doing incredibly hard jobs without adequate support or financial compensation, and House Bill 8 would make things worse.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you for your time.