

Dear Members of the Ohio Legislature,

I'm writing to voice my concerns about House Bill 8, also known as the "Parents' Bill of Rights." While involving parents in education is important, this bill has some serious downsides, especially for LGBTQ+ students.

You should be concerned about the students it hurts, but obviously the House is not. So I ask the Senate to save Ohio tax payer dollars by voting no in committee.

This bill will end up in court for violating students' privacy and equal protection rights. The bill could be challenged on the grounds that it:

- Discriminates Against LGBTQ+ Students: The bill could be seen as discriminatory under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, as it disproportionately affects LGBTQ+ students. By singling out these students for parental notification, the bill could be argued to create an unequal and hostile educational environment.

- Violates Privacy Rights: By mandating that schools notify parents about students' gender identity or sexuality-related requests, the bill infringes upon the students' right to privacy. The U.S. Constitution and various state laws protect individuals' right to privacy, which includes sensitive personal information.

- Violates Freedom of Expression: Requiring parental notification for discussions or content related to sexuality could suppress free expression in the classroom. This might discourage educators from covering important topics like sexual health and consent, thus infringing upon First Amendment rights.

You know all of this.

So don't waste any more Taxpayer Dollars on bullying transgender and gay kids.

The legal battles that will arise from House Bill 8 will be very costly. These funds could be better used to improve our schools, support teachers, and provide resources for students. Wasting taxpayer dollars on defending a bill that infringes on student rights is not a responsible use of public funds.

Legal challenges will lead to costly and prolonged court battles for the state, making this bill not only harmful but also financially imprudent.

In conclusion, while parental involvement is important, House Bill 8 goes too far and compromises students' rights and well-being. I urge you to reconsider this bill and find better ways to involve parents without harming students.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Amanda Fisher