

I am the mother of two children who identify as queer. The tone of much of the legislation coming from our current Ohio congress is very disturbing to me. Specially I oppose Ohio HB 8. Queer folks have always been a part of our human experience despite anti-queer legislation, religious actions, and persecution. Human characteristics appear to me to always exist on a spectrum. Eye color, height, intelligence, AC1 levels are just a few. Human sexuality is a complex dance of hormones, proteins, and I suspect much we do not yet understand about brain function. The legislation takes a very archaic view of the queer experience. I would like to see a society that empowers all our youth and does not target minority and force them to live an inauthenticity life. I wish that all parents can support their children as they explore their true selves. I am grateful my children felt they could tell me how they experienced their sexuality at a time chosen by them and in a manner they were most comfortable with. I do not feel it is right to put teachers and school administrators in the position of outing children who are not yet ready or who know that their parents are not supportive of their identity. I think we need to put the children's best interests at the center of education. I know if I asked my children, they would have been opposed to the school and/or teachers being so involved in their pursuit of their authentic selves and they would want to initiate any conversations of their sexuality with me or others themselves, not have these conversations forced and on an inappropriate timeline. I oppose this legislation as it is currently written as I feel it does more harm to queer children.

Thank you for taking my testimonial

Amy Koshoffer