

Senators,

Hello, my name is Ashton Doll. I am a lifelong Ohioan who is proud to call the Columbus metropolitan area my home. I went to Licking Heights local schools, volunteer at Columbus Metropolitan Library system, studied at Oberlin College, and am currently pursuing a career in education. I am also transgender. As a transgender Ohioan, I am deeply concerned by HB 8. It would make it unfeasible for me to pursue an education career, preventing me from giving back to the community that raised me. Ohio is my home, one in which teachers are subject to enough difficulties without government censorship. Queer and LGBT topics are no more inappropriate for the classroom than algebra, the history of the Shawnee that used to inhabit our land, geography, reading, chemistry, anatomy, or any number of other topics. This is a profound waste of time addressing a non-issue. It will not make schools safer for anyone, especially not the vulnerable LGBT children taught there. As someone who once was a queer child, I can personally attest to the necessary power of teachers to support children. They cannot support children if they are silenced by HB 8. Please do not allow this bill to become law. I and others like me are not threats to children by existing, we are normal, everyday people like yourselves. We simply wish to live our lives in peace. Please afford us that.

Thank you for listening,

Ashton Doll