

Opponent Testimony for HB 8 – Written-Only
Senate Education Committee
December 9th, 2024

Drew Herzig
Constituent from Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for considering my testimony. My name is Drew Herzig. I am a resident of Cleveland Heights. I am writing to urge you to oppose this bill, HB 8, which would endanger LGBTQ+ youth in Ohio and violate the social work professional Code of Ethics.

LGBTQ youth are at more than double the risk of homelessness compared to their peers, and they comprise 40% of the youth homeless population¹. If they do not become fully homeless, these youth could enter the foster care system.

HB 8 would risk students' safety, violate their privacy and autonomy, and ultimately increase the risk of child abuse, youth homelessness, and youth suicide.

I urge you to oppose HB 8.

Thank you,

Drew Herzig