



Shaker Heights Schools

Testimony Opposing HB 8

Submitted by: Shaker Heights Board of Education

President: Lora Cover

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Member: Pamela Scott

Member: Douglas Wang

Member: Heather Weingart

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 8.

Shaker Heights City School Board of Education stands in opposition to House Bill 8 for several reasons, and we urge you to stand with us.

First, we serve on the Board of Education because of our deep belief in children, all children. And based on significant research, this type of legislation puts LGBTQ+ students at greater risk. As reported in [Young people are being harmed: the effect of anti-trans legislation](#), "in a nationwide [survey](#) of LGBTQ+ teens and young adults in late 2022, the Trevor Project [found](#) that 86% of transgender and nonbinary youth said anti-trans bills negatively impacted their mental health." We remain deeply concerned about the social and emotional well-being of our students and see this legislation putting our students at further risk.

Second, this type of legislation would erode our belief on the Board of Education that our students deserve an honest education. The proposed language would decrease access to medically accurate sex education. Ohio already has regulations governing parental notice, review, and opting out of instruction. This bill would potentially allow some parents to rewrite sex education for all students. We believe that students should learn the science, not the beliefs of a small group of non-educators with a particular agenda.

Third, our educators are incredibly strong and passionate teachers. This bill foments division and distrust of educators and creates additional opportunities to micromanage educators. And it highlights the third tenet of our membership on the Board of Education. We are not partisan politicians. This type of legislation, and the mistrust it breeds, favors political polarization over our teachers, students, and families.

Every child should feel safe, welcomed, and cared for when they go to school. This bill would deprive some of our most vulnerable children of that right.

House Bill 8 does not protect the interests of our families or students. We urge you to vote “No” on House Bill 8.