

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Gary Greenberg and I am a retired Ohio educator. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 8.

In my working years, I was directly involved with professional development for K-12 teachers, and came to know their career goals and motivations well. Like other professionals, they want to do the best possible work with their students, colleagues and parents. Many entered the profession to help children, parents and their local communities.

One thing they didn't enter the profession for is to be the target of endless lawsuits regarding what's taught in the classroom.

According to a 2022 report from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Development, teacher departure rates from the profession were up over past years. One reason for this cited by Scott DiMauro at the Ohio Education Foundation is "...deteriorating partnerships with parents."

HB 8 is designed to guarantee a fraught relationship between teachers and parents. When we make K-12 education a minefield for teachers and staff by criminalizing what they teach and discuss in the classroom, we raise the cost of educating children in Ohio for all taxpayers.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.