

Hi,

My name is Dana and I am a 27 year old non-binary resident of so called Columbus Ohio. This testimony is written in response to Ohio Senate Education committee's H.B. 8.

I urge you to respect student's privacy and autonomy. This nature of this bill if this passes is extremely harmful to queer and trans youth who deserve the rights of personhood guaranteed under our US Constitution. It is shown that requiring schools to out students to their parents is immensely harmful and is a WASTE of Ohio Education's time and resources to implement something of this nature and magnitude.

I am coming to you from my own personal experience with being a queer youth. In my time as a queer youth many few years prior, we had a potentially transgender/queer student in my high school who unfortunately committed suicide. This was well understood to be directly due to the fact that their own family members came to learn about their experience before they were ready to share. Sadly, the impact this had was absolutely detrimental and a law did not exist at the time making sure that outing students continued to persist.

This anecdote is real and I think about it every damn day of my life. Youth everywhere deserve their autonomy and the right to tell their own truth. The government should not be involved in making this decision for them. Please consider the direct HARMFUL impact this would have on schools, students and everyone else families included. Unless lawmakers would like to be more closely like Russia, I'd suggest not passing H.B. 8 and NOT censoring education here in Ohio.

Thank you for your consideration in opposing H.B. 8.

Best regards,
Dana Wiegling