

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 Angela Boday. I am happily married to another woman and have long supported LGBTQ youth and their rights to be safe and protected. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 8.

I didn't come out until I was 28 years old. Looking back, I knew I was gay in high school but also didn't know what it was back then. Had I seen representation in school or had people I felt I could talk to about it maybe my journey though life would have looked a little different.

I ran an LGBTQ Youth Community Center for several years and to hear the horror stories that kids would share with us during our programs was so disheartening. I helped kids through periods of self-harm and suicide attempts because of the bullying and the lack of support they felt both at home and at school. Forcing teachers to out kids can and will potentially get them killed. Studies have shown that and LGBTQ kid having ONE supportive adult in their life will lower their suicide risk by 50%. Do we want to be a state where kids are more likely to kill themselves because they fear that who they are as a person will just as likely get them killed? Passing legislation that will require teachers and counselors to report gender identity or sex preference is absolutely disgusting and there are plenty more important things the State of Ohio should be worrying about like the fact that kids and whole families are going hungry and can't afford to pay their mortgage or rent.

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

Thank you,

Angela Boday

Walbridge, Ohio