

December 9, 2024

The Honorable Andrew O. Brennan, Chairman
Senate Education Committee Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 8. The Enact the Parent's Bill of Rights Bill would require parental notification would require parental notification in the case of any request by a student to identify as a gender that does not align with the student's biological sex. I oppose this bill because it is harmful to Ohio's children.

For many students, school serves as a refuge where they can express themselves and figure out who they are. I have seen first hand the toll having parents at odds with a child's identity can take on them. The trans friends I had growing up whose parents did not support them did not stop being trans, but they did ultimately suffer far worse outcomes than those whose parents did support them. Furthermore, those who were "out" to non supportive parents would often struggle to pay for things like secondary education or housing in cases where they were kicked out of their homes, leading to vicious spirals of unemployment. It is contradictory that House Bill 8 explicitly excludes from its definition of 'sexuality' topics pertaining to prevention of abuse and violence while the policy itself makes students more vulnerable to both. The Ohio senate should oppose H. B. 8 for the sake of protecting Ohio's children. I appreciate your consideration of my concerns.

Thank you,

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