

Greetings,

I am writing to you about House Bill 8 which puts the privacy and well-being of Ohio students at risk. As a college professor I am disgusted that the state is interfering with the capacity of educators to support students in a critically important subject area for student health and safety. It is imperative that trust between young people and a teacher or other school staff member remain intact; for students who do not feel safe at home, sometimes they have nowhere else to turn but to a teacher or guidance counselor.

While we hope that every young person could rely on immediate family members and parents, we unfortunately understand that is not the reality. These generalized parameters cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach for supporting our young people, as for many students – especially LGBTQ+ students – they will do just the opposite.

The language of HB 8 regarding “sexuality content” is wholly unneeded and if anything will prevent important conversation about sexuality, identity, and gender that are facts of our changing world. Furthermore, current law in Ohio already has provisions relating to parental notification and review.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearing on Tuesday to present my testimony as an opponent to HB 8, but hope that this email will be considered and that you work with your colleagues to strike down this bill.

Thank you,

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