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**Testimony Before the Ohio House Education Committee
H. B. 127 – Regarding Child Privacy
May 13, 2025**

Dear Chairperson Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) is a non-profit regional law firm that provides free legal assistance in civil matters in 32 counties in Western Ohio. We help individuals and groups living on low incomes pursue justice and equal access to opportunity, including through advocacy for systemic reforms.

As I mentioned in my testimony on May 6, 2025, House Bill 127 gives school districts the ability to better protect the privacy of children.

I also wanted to briefly follow up to the testimony by Ryan McLane, Superintendent of the Big Walnut Local School District. In response to a question by the committee, Superintendent McLane mentioned that his District had established a workaround to help prevent student information from falling into the wrong hands. However, not all of the school districts I have spoken with about this issue believe that Directory Information can be withheld at all (outside of the limited statutory exceptions) under the current law. For this reason, I believe that a blanket change as proposed by House Bill 127 would be most effective in protecting the privacy of children.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I again ask you to vote YES on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Ryan Davis
Staff Attorney

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