

I want to thank the members of the Ohio House of Representatives Health Committee for allowing me to submit my testimony. My name is Nancy Fingerhood and I live in Canfield, Ohio. I ask that you vote NO on HB 172.

As a social worker, I know that allowing teenagers a space to discuss issues with a counselor removes barriers to care. For example, if the teen is being abused by a parent and wants to discuss this with a counselor, it is unlikely the parent will give consent for the teen to see a counselor. Thousands of kids in Ohio are sexually abused and very often the perpetrator is a parent or caregiver. This bill most likely will lead to punishment, such more physical or sexual abuse. This bill puts children's lives in danger.

Teenagers need a level of privacy, free from judgment so they can exercise their decision making abilities and conscience.

Please vote no on HB 172.