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Committees:
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BRIGID KELLY

State Representative

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 105, Erin's Law.

Erin's Law was introduced in the 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd (and now the 134th) General Assemblies – all with bipartisan joint sponsors and support. This bill would require age-appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse prevention for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade, including information on available counseling and resources for children who are sexually abused. For seventh through twelfth grades, the bill would require age-appropriate instruction in sexual violence prevention education.

To help prevent a burden on the school districts, this bill would also require the Ohio Department of Education to provide free resources for schools and instructors to help create their curricula. Moreover, each school district, community school, and STEM school would be required to include training on child sexual abuse in its in-service training for teachers and other professionals. Parents will also be able to request to review the instruction materials.

We should give kids in our community the best chance to succeed, including the knowledge and support to recognize when something isn't right. By ensuring that they have age-appropriate resources, we are prioritizing their safety and wellness.

Again, Representative Lipps and I appreciate the chance to offer testimony on House Bill 105 and would be happy to answer any questions at this time.