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State Representative

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity for Representative Lipps and I to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 321, Erin's Law.

Erin's Law was introduced in the 130th, 131st, and 132nd 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, and age-appropriate instruction in sexual violence prevention education for seventh through twelfth grades. The Ohio Department of Education would be required to provide free resources for schools and instructors to create their curricula; each school district, educational service center, community school, and STEM school required to include training on child sexual abuse in its in-service training for teachers and other professionals.

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 321 and would be happy to answer any questions.