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Written Testimony of John Stover
President, Ohio Value Voters
Primary and Secondary Education Committee
House Bill 105
December 13, 2022

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Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking members of the Committee. My name is John Stover and I am the President of Ohio Value Voters. Our organization promotes the values of Faith, Life, Families and Religious Freedom. Since 2007, our purpose has been to educate, inform, and influence voters and elected officials in Ohio. We are independent of any political party, religious organization or political action committee. Ohio Value Voters is a registered 501(c)(4) organization.

Our organization is opposed to the passage of House Bill 105, as passed by the Ohio House.

Issues with H.B. 105:

1. House Bill 240, amending ORC 3313.6011, which was passed within the budget bill (H.B. 110) provided language related to any additional "sexual education." Page 780, states:

"no district or school shall offer that instruction to a student unless that student's parent or guardian has submitted written permission for that student to receive that instruction."

House Bill 105, lines 61-68 states:

"Each school district shall notify the parents and legal guardians of students who receive instruction related to dating violence prevention and sexual violence prevention, as described under divisions (A)(5)(d) and (f) of this section, that such instruction is a required part of the district's curriculum. Notification shall include that upon request, parents and legal guardians may examine such instructional materials in accordance with this section."

Parents are informed that this sexual violence prevention instruction is a requirement.

2. ORC 3313.60 section G states:

"Upon the request of any parent or legal guardian of a student, the board of education of any school district shall permit the parent or guardian to promptly examine, with respect to the parent's or guardian's own child:
(1) Any survey or questionnaire, prior to its administration to the child;
(2) Any textbook, workbook, software, video, or other instructional materials being used by the district in connection with the instruction of the child;
(3) Any completed and graded test taken or survey or questionnaire filled out by the child;
(4) Copies of the statewide academic standards and each model curriculum developed pursuant to section 3301.079 of the Revised Code, which copies shall be available at all times during school hours in each district school building."

Parents have the right to review all material "promptly". It is the school board which is responsible to the parents to provide this information.

House Bill 105 would limit this right.

3. House Bill 105, lines 69-75 states:

"If the parent or legal guardian of a student less than eighteen years of age submits to the principal of the student's school a written request to examine the dating violence prevention and sexual violence prevention instruction materials used at that school, the principal, within a reasonable period of time after the request is made, shall allow the parent or guardian to examine those materials at that school."

This language conflicts with the parents right to have the school board "promptly" provide material to a parent ORC 3313.6011. Whereas, House Bill 105, will require parents to seek instruction on "sexual violence prevention" from the principal. The principal must provide "within a reasonable period of time".

4. House Bill 105, line 42 states:

For K through six, "age-appropriate instruction."

House Bill 105, line 51 states:

For seven through twelve, "age-appropriate instruction."

Major concern with over 600 school districts throughout the state defining their instruction.

When looking at the above, why is K through six, "annual" and seven through twelve not.

5. House Bill 105:

No reference is made to ORC 2151.421 – Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect".

Why? Teachers, Principals, Superintendents and school officials are required to report the abuse which H.B. 105 attempts to address.

Thank you.

John Stover, President
Ohio Value Voters