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Ohio Senate
Education Committee
RE: Testimony House Bill 8
Parents Bill of Rights in Education
Proponent

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee, **thank you for allowing me to provide testimony** as a Proponent of House Bill 8, Parents Bill of Rights in Education.

Representative Swearingen introduced this bill after a meeting where I asked about the term "in loco parentis" in the spring of 2022, I asked him about my superintendent, Dr. David Hile telling me that a public school has "guardianship", custody, he used "in loco parentis". Ohio defines "in loco parentis" under

Rule 5101:2-16-01 | Definitions for eligibility for publicly funded childcare benefits.

(Q) "In loco parentis" means an adult who is the caretaker of a child, including a relative, foster parent or stepparent, who is charged with the rights, duties and responsibilities of a parent and whose presence in the home is needed to perform these rights, duties, and responsibilities.

Now I understand under Federal law in the case of an emergency the public school has "in loco parentis" when police are on property and the emergency must be like an active shooting. However, "in loco parentis" is not to be used against parental rights and authority.

Vermilion Local School district targeted my children because I assert my rights as my child's parent and authority and Republican values. I was outspoken during COVID about mask mandates and started to attend board meetings and addressed issues regarding curriculum, programs, and policy changes for doing so my children were punished and I pulled 3 or 4 of my children out of VLSD and started Homeschooling. I will not have my children in a system where I agree to let the school do whatever they want while my children are in a public school and have nothing to point to in Ohio law that states clearly a parent is responsible for the whole child, not the school.

The superintendent and Board of Education have never had a meeting with me and feel they don't need to; I have been told they only represent "stakeholders". A stakeholder is defined as a person with an interest or concern in something, especially a business. I am the only "stakeholder" of my children, no parent has given legal custody to schools when registering for school send my children to school to learn critical thinking skills, math, reading, civics, and science since 2020 public schools have focused on the wrong priorities. The focus is not academics.

Currently, the 14th Amendment is the only protection parents can use and requires getting the courts involved to assert your parental authority and the schools know it. This is an example of the schools using lawfare to circumvent parental rights. Parents are solely responsible for their child's mental, emotional, and physical well-being and if a public school wants to provide services parents need to be involved and informed of what their child is being taught at school. Parents should be a partner in education.

Thank you again for allowing me to provide proponent testimony on the Parent's Bill of Rights in Education. A special thank you to Representative DJ Swearingen for listening to me and quickly providing a solution to ensure parents' rights in public schools. I urge you to pass House Bill 8 and support and enforce Parents Rights in Education. Thank you and Happy Holidays.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Beyer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kathleen Beyer