

Linda Harvey Senate Testimony for HB 8 Parental Rights
Senate Education Committee

Thank you so much for permitting me to submit testimony in favor of HB 8, to enact a law providing more robust support for parental rights in Ohio.

I am president of Mission America (www.missionamerica.com) and I also serve on the board of Protect Ohio Children (www.protectohiochildren.net). I have also been a radio talk show host at the Central Ohio station, The Word Columbus, for 15 years. My articles appear in many publications across the Internet and one of the topics I cover frequently is K-12 education.

This bill is very urgently needed as many schools have adopted de facto policies that exclude or ignore parental consent on very sensitive topics.

I am suggesting the following amendments to HB 8:

(Suggested changes marked in red)

Sec. 3313.473. (A) The general assembly maintains that a parent has a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of the parent's child.

(B) The board of education of each city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district shall develop and adopt a policy to promote parental involvement in the public school system. The policy shall require a school district to do all of the following:

(1) (a) Ensure that any sexuality content **and instruction on puberty/hygiene** is age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate.

(b) Prior to providing instruction that includes sexuality content, disclose to parents any instructional material that includes sexuality content. **Affirmative, "opt-in" notification must be received for each student to participate.** Upon request of the student's parent, a student shall be excused from instruction that includes sexuality content and be permitted to take an alternative class.

(2) Notify a student's parent of any change in the student's services, including counseling services, or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student. **ORC 5122.04 is hereby repealed.**

Thank you for considering these suggestions.