

## EEA Legislative Report April 2024

Mercifully, the General Assembly has not been terribly busy in its attempts to make our jobs worse under the guise of making our jobs easier. That said, there are a few things worth mentioning.

**Bathroom Bill:** The [bill to ban transgender students](#) from using restrooms aligned with their gender identity has passed out of committee and will be voted on in the House. Opponents of this sort of legislation suggest that it needlessly targets an already marginalized group and is essentially a solution in search of a problem.

**Standardized Testing:** It's meaningless nonsense that best reflects a child's socioeconomic status and not their capabilities or potential, but this isn't about that.

In case you missed it, the system failed to work last week due to a vendor outage. [Channel 5 did a nice job](#) reporting on the impact of events like this. The Ohio Department of Education & Workforce was less helpful, saying "*The Test Administration interface was unavailable for a short period today. Cambium Assessment, the testing vendor, worked to resolve the issue quickly. The Department will work with districts and schools that may have had difficulties testing this morning.*" To be clear, schools didn't have difficulty. The "Department" and their bloodsucking vendor had difficulty.

**Governor DeWine:** In a case of terrible timing, DeWine spoke on the "State of the State" the day after a former member of his administration turned up dead. Sam Randazzo, former PUCO Chair who'd been indicted in the ongoing First Energy scandal [reportedly hung himself](#) on the eve of the Governor's speech.

If you're unfamiliar, there's another corpse associated with the scandal. Neil Clark, a Columbus lobbyist, was found dead in his Florida home in 2021 wearing a "[DeWine for Governor](#)" t-shirt. You can't make this stuff up.

As it stands, the Governor was able to set aside his grief or concern, refuse to comment on his dead colleague, and deliver his speech to affirm that he's in it for the kids. He backs work on a bill being crafted by Senator Andy Brenner to require the [limitation of student cell phones](#) in school. DeWine also reiterated his belief that the [Science of Reading will save us all](#), though I've recently seen some things that suggest that the Science of Reading might be [more propaganda and salesmanship than it is science](#).

*Unquestionably the best photo from the State of the State is this one of Governor DeWine and his lovely wife Fran with self-proclaimed communist blogger The Rooster, wearing a tank top featuring former President Trump & Kim Jong Un. You're welcome.*

