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Dr. Emily Krichbaum

Founder

Remember The Ladies: A Project in History, Politics & Culture

Good afternoon Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. My name is Emily Krichbaum. I am a former American history professor and founder of *Remember The Ladies: A Project in History, Politics & Culture*. *Remember The Ladies* provides intensive women’s history seminars for teachers and school districts, helping them to provide a more representative history in K-12 classrooms. We believe education possesses the transformational power to bridge gaps of experience and understanding, increases the confidence of young women, and inspires everyone to lean in. The sooner young girls *see* individuals, like themselves, in history books, the sooner they’ll believe they have that same capacity. Their world opens and their confidence increases.

I would like to offer my support of S.B. No. 30. Ohio has the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the historic anniversary of women’s suffrage. It has been my experience and observation that these types of opportunities are too often missed. Even with the rise of women’s history, women’s history month, women’s groups and women’s marches, women still only comprise 0.5% of 3,500 years of written history. Zero point five percent. As recent as 2017, state social studies standards require K-12 public schools to cover 737 historical figures—only 178 of those individuals are women. Two of those women, Molly Pitcher and Rosie the Riveter—are fictional.

And, as a former American history professor, my greatest joy was distilling large amounts of information, breaking down philosophies and providing young men and women with a solid foundation of knowledge. But it wasn’t just about transferring information from teacher to student. I observed that once students understood—really understood the information—that *that* foundation positioned them to start engaging in discussion, registering to vote, researching issues, raising questions. In their minds, politics and government was no longer for *those* people, the select few—they too could play an active and meaningful role as well in civic life. But, if they don’t see themselves in the history they study, they’ll likely never attempt to build a foundation, to become involved, to start a conversation.

At *Remember The Ladies*, we are committed to events and curriculum that highlight the historic, political leadership of women. We believe education is not simply what you read but also what you see. We believe S.B. No. 30 provides an opportunity for young girls to recognize their tremendous history and be inspired by that history. That is the cornerstone of their foundation.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and for your service. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.