

Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

As a member of the Riverside Local School District Board of Education in Lake County, Ohio, I am compelled to speak out against House Bill 73 because it erodes the common threads which unite all Americans: Our Founding ideals and our common history. Our country is unique because it was founded on universal ideas and human aspirations, and not by race, ethnicity nor any other physical human trait, which are the basis for most other countries in the world.

These ideals, which are the only bands which which can unite us as one country, need to be understood, valued and revered by all members of our society in order for America to be harmonious and prosperous. America's greatest strength is it's diversity, but diversity can also be America's greatest weakness especially when it is used by demagogues to divide us politically and culturally by traits over which none of us have any control.

To ensure diversity remains America's greatest strength, we need to do our part to ensure all Ohio students understand the greatness of America's Founding Documents, and how those documents were used, mostly for good but sometimes for ill, throughout American History. These are two separate, but complimentary disciplines, must be maintained as such to ensure we have at least one area of common understanding across all elements of our heterogeneous society to serve as a basis for tolerance, understanding and compromise.

As a school board member, my highest aspiration is to help my district graduate upstanding citizens who understand America's Founding, know their history and have a life-long commitment to do their part to ensure self-government, through our representative form of government, continues into perpetuity. It would be a travesty for this body to deliberately choose to diminish our student's understanding of the country they will one day inherit, and to increase the likelihood of strife and conflict in our society because lack of understanding.

I ask you to vote against House Bill 73

Sincerely,  
Thomas Hach  
Member  
Riverside Local Schools Board of Education