

TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE COLLIVER

SUPPORTING HB 327

Prohibit teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts

My name is Christine Colliver and I support HB327. I live in Cincinnati. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

In March of 2021, I was invited by our elementary school Principal to participate in a Diversity and Equity Committee that was made up of Northwest Local School District administrators, teachers and counselors. This Committee had already undergone various training with the consultant that was hired to lead this undertaking. I began to research the training information that was given to me. What I discovered was incredibly disturbing.

The Groundwater Approach is training provided by The Racial Equity Institute. This institute believes that “: racial inequity looks the same across systems, socioeconomic difference does not explain the racial inequity; and inequities are caused by systems, regardless of people’s culture or behavior. Embracing these truths forces leaders to confront the reality that all our systems, institutions, and outcomes emanate from the racial hierarchy on which the United States was built.” This is simply not true.

The Diversity & Equity Committee meetings that I attended were primarily focusing on race. We had breakout sessions during these meetings to discuss various subjects. I had the opportunity to speak candidly with a couple of committee members. They shared with me that during breakouts, one of them had been called a racist and the other was called out for her “white privilege”. I asked our Superintendent about this and he responded that it was hard to have these tough conversations without stirring up emotions. I agree, however, I feel as though it’s allowing for a hostile environment where no one in opposition feels safe to speak up. We cannot allow this to flood into our classrooms.

While our district is only in the committee phase, I was informed by our Curriculum Director that books were being removed from our school libraries and new books have

been ordered to reflect what they have learned through this training. I have requested a list of both book lists.

I am the Hamilton County Chapter Chair for MomsForLiberty.org. We are made up of parents, grandparents, caretakers and just concerned community members. Our mission is to educate and empower parents to defend their parental rights. Our parents have been speaking out against CRT at their school board meetings across the county.

Hard work and teachers dedicated to teaching the elements of reading, mathematics and history (not a rewritten history with an agenda) are the tools that will continue to empower our children ...NOT activism. Our children should be able to form their own world view based on facts and their beliefs, not a biased curriculum that is forced upon them. Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask that you support HB327.

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