

Opponent Testimony for Ohio House Bill 322
By Alyssa Rasmussen
Before the State and Local Government Committee
19 September 2021

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee,

I am honored to provide testimony on H.B No. 322. My name is Alyssa Rasmussen, I am an Ohio native and mother of four. I strongly oppose HB 322, and my consciousness can no longer abide by such blatant hatred and ignorance.

As an educated, socially-conscious mother, I no longer have faith that the bodies governing our education system will act with the best interest of our children. I am disgusted by the mob-rule that has overtaken public education at the local level and up through the state. I have previously trusted those in power to guide our curriculums and policies towards a goal of educating our children both in an academic sense as well as humanitarian. Sadly, it is overwhelmingly evident that what is right has been surpassed for what is easy; what is true is being suppressed for what will appease the hate-filled demands of bigots.

HB 322 is nothing more than a repression of true, factual history and its impacts. By denying how the present came to be, the lives certain movements and actions have cost, and the terror done in the name of “freedoms”, we are dooming all who come through this system to repeat the evils of the past. History needs to be taught in its entirety, but by banning such a complete education we are suppressing the realities of millions of people, dead and alive. By even proposing such a bill, Ohio has given credence to racism, prejudice, and injustice, the repercussions of which can be seen in school board meetings all over the country.

HB 322 directly threatens educators, intimidating them away from teaching the truth under peril of persecution. As our country continues to grapple with diverging realities, it is only by understanding the plights of our fellows that we can hope for progress. This bill aims to put blinders on our children, enabling ethnocentric ideologies to fester into violent extremist beliefs for the detriment of all. The world around us will not forgive the willful echo-chamber we are

diving ever deeper into, nor should it. This madness of coddling to the ignorant and indignant needs to end.

As a mother, as a human, I oppose HB 322 with the strongest conviction and utmost concern. It is incomprehensible how a country that supposedly purports truth, freedom, and the pursuit of justice can be so eager to embrace the thralls of despicable, thinly-veiled racists.

I ask you to strongly consider my testimony in opposition and condemnation of HB 322.

Thank you for allowing me to exercise my right to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Rasmussen
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