

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee- Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony for HB 322. My name is Debra Spangler and I am testifying in opposition to HB 322. I am the parent of two teenagers, and understand how critical it is to give them the opportunity, information and support to grow into compassionate and engaged citizens, capable of critical thinking and considering perspectives different from their own. For this to be done well, it is crucial that a teacher and school community be supported and encouraged, with all the tools and resources available to foster meaningful discussion and learning. Discouraging children from considering an active civic life is irresponsible. We should be empowering them to be thinking about the systems that uphold our society and where the injustices are within those systems. This discussion is uncomfortable for everyone, but HB 322 undermines the intelligence of our teachers, administrators and children. There is a way to support this important learning by providing resources and training to our teachers and supporting the important work of examining and reshaping our country.

Thank you for your attention. Attached please find my witness information form.
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