

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322
Laura Stone, Ohio Constituent
State and Local Government Committee
September 19, 2021

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Laura Stone. I am a tax-paying Ohio constituent of twenty years as well as a former Ohio public school teacher accredited in Ohio and a current mom to two young children who attend Ohio public schools. I strongly OPPOSE HB 322.

This bill aims to actively censor and restrict evidence and truth-based education by prohibiting the “promotion” of “divisive concepts” including acknowledgement, condemnation, and accountability for: systemic and structural racism, longstanding discrimination (including sexism), oppression, suppression, and conscious and unconscious bias. The passing of this bill would be a travesty not only to students and teachers in Ohio, but to the entire society of Ohio.

I moved to Ohio in 1997 to attend Denison University in Granville, Ohio where I received a Bachelor of Arts Degree. The education I received at Denison strongly impacted who I am today. In 2007, I graduated with a Master’s Degree in Teaching and Learning from The Ohio State University. This graduate program played a fundamental role in teaching me about the importance of race, racial bias, and discrimination in our history and how that impacts students of color and white students in school. I was introduced to concepts I had previously never heard of such as code-switching and white privilege. To be clear, these concepts were explained to me in great detail; however, I was free to form my own opinions and conclusions. HB 322 not only encourages, but rather forces educators to lie outright or lie by omission to students about our country’s history. That is wrong. We owe it to our kids to teach them the truth about our country. Don’t fail our kids.

As a tax-paying Ohioan of twenty years, a former Ohio public school teacher accredited in Ohio, and a current mom to two young children who attend Ohio public schools, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB322 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed. You may reach me at laurachandlerstone@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Stone
Ohio constituent
Former Ohio public school teacher
Mom of two young children who attend Ohio public schools