

Opposition to House Bill 322
Mario Clopton-Zymler, Candidate, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education
State and Local Government Committee
Monday, September 20, 2021

To: Chairman Scott Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman Marilyn John, Ranking Member Representative Brigid Kelly, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee

My name is Mario Clopton-Zymler. I am a tenured public school educator with over a decade of combined experience in teaching and education administration, a doctoral student studying education leadership at The Ohio University, and a candidate for Member of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education. **I strongly oppose House Bill 322.**

As a tenured and experienced educator, I oppose this bill because Ohio's students deserve the opportunity to understand the lived experience of underrepresented people in this country. These bills work to silence the voice of people who have been marginalized in our society and remove Home Rule and local control from educators, elected school boards, parents and community members. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education and at several other school districts across Ohio have adopted educational equity policies that seek to close racial achievement gaps and remove barriers to learning by partnering with culturally specific groups with expertise that include openly discussing opening and free issues of race, class, sexual orientation and gender identity. Cleveland Heights-University Heights as a community values diversity, we strive to be anti-racist, and believe in attaining racial equity. Columbus should not get in the way of our community sharing our values within our schools.

As a tenured educator, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB 322 and vote NO on these dangerous bills.

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 hello@mario4tignation.com or 216.232.6380.

Respectfully submitted,
Mario Clopton-Zymler
Candidate, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education