

Opposition to HB322

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 Susan Gilfert and I am testifying in opposition to HB 322.

In my understanding, HB 322 regards the teaching of certain current events and certain concepts regarding race and sex in public schools. As a retired educator, I believe in the freedom of speech for teachers and children, the importance of civics education that teaches and provides opportunities for students to be actively involved, and the ways that students learn important lessons through discussions about difficult issues: integrity, courage, empathy, etc. This bill addresses some of those points, but then twists negatively towards any discussion of multiple perspectives of these points. American democracy is based on the importance of critical thinking, which cannot be served if only one perspective is presented. HB 322 appears to provide only one perspective, which is a disservice to Ohio students, Ohio teachers, and Ohio society as a whole.

Susan Gilfert

Retired university lecturer

Retired Red Cross volunteer

Current OhioHealth volunteer at O'Bleness Hospital

Active election official for Athens County