

Testimony on Sub House Bill 327
Mario Clopton-Zymler, Candidate, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education
State and Local Government Committee
Monday, September 20, 2021

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Mario Clopton-Zymler. I am a tenured public school educator with over a decade of combined teaching and education administration experience, 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 Sub House Bill 327.**

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. This bill works to silence the voices of people who have been marginalized in our society. Several areas of the bill are ambiguous and purposely vague. The legislation does not define criteria for violations of bill, process for reporting, and process for evaluation and who evaluates, and process for defunding and suspension of professional licensing.

As a doctoral candidate, I value the ability to think critically, take in multiple perspectives and make my own values based on the knowledge I have attained. This bill removes free speech and academic freedom from institutions of higher education and is a direct assault on knowledge and intellect.

I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB 322 and vote NO on this dangerous 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 hello@mario4tignation.com or 216.232.6380.

Respectfully submitted,

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