

My name is Nancy Fingerhood and I am resident of Canfield, Ohio. I oppose two Ohio bills (HB 327 and HB 322) which would ban teachers from discussing racism, sexism, prejudice, gender studies, and other so-called “divisive concepts.” Even in college.

It is not the obligation of politicians to narrow the scope of reality we may present to children.

Another danger is not the teaching of critical race theory, but the fact that numerous lawmakers now believe they have some divine right to ban ideas, often when they do not even have a clue what these ideas truly mean or how they are being taught.

Instead of asking if critical race theory should be banned, ask instead what other ideas teachers will soon not be allowed to teach or students not be allowed to learn because of misinformation (both intentional and unintentional) and/or crass political demagoguery.

Silencing an idea because it compels a reckoning with historical ugliness was once the domain of totalitarian governments.

A paradox lies at this largely conservative campaign against CRT. If you slice through the rhetoric, it rests on a view of free speech that the political right, until now, stridently and correctly rejected: That speech can and should be curtailed because it makes some people feel uncomfortable or threatened.

Please vote against HB 327 and HB 322. Thank you.