

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322 and House Bill 327

Greg Ganor, Student, Rocky River High School, Rocky River, Ohio

State and Local Government Committee

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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 in opposition to House Bill 322 and House Bill 327.

My name is Greg Ganor, a white male, from an affluent family, in an affluent town, and a junior at Rocky River High School. I am the captain of the Cross Country team, I participate in the band, and I volunteer often with Key Club, my school's community service organization. I take my academics very seriously, in fact, I scored a perfect 36 on the ACT this past spring. But more importantly, ever since the eighth grade, I have given my all to make myself the best candidate possible in order to attend the United States Naval Academy as a part of the Class of 2027, and later serve my country in the United States Navy. As you can imagine from this brief synopsis of my life, I hold several ideals near and dear to my heart, ideals that have led me to this podium today, and ideals that will allow me to be the best person and leader I can be, and to truly change the world for the better. Those ideals are integrity, accountability, trust, kindness, hard work, respect.....and truth.

If I am not mistaken, I am the very person the proponents of these bills seek to protect. Respectfully, I do not need your protection from the history and current events that might make

some people feel uncomfortable, and I suggest that we all try to learn the true history of this nation, to understand why current events are transpiring, and why historical events unfolded as they did. That is what will truly make this country great again. If these bills pass, you will have students who merely know a shred of the history of this country, students who only know what happened, rather than why, and in some instances, maybe not even the what.

This legislature will do a disservice to me and the tens of thousands of students like me if you prohibit our schools from teaching us true history and discussing current events as they are, not as what some people want them to be. These bills feel like a very political maneuver that exacerbates division and outrage among the citizens of this state, while jeopardizing the education of current and future Ohio students.

Without teaching the truth of history and current events, countless students will lose needed perspective that will guide them through their lives, and ultimately, lose vital knowledge that will prohibit them from reaching their fullest potential, preventing them from being the best they can be, preventing them from helping this country have a prosperous future, one of equality-- a true United States of America.

I urge the proponents of these bills to take a step back and consider the full implications of them, and how they would be a detriment to the future of thousands of people. Just another obstacle this country must overcome. We all need to face our demons in order to overcome them, and this is no different. For those who share the same values of integrity, accountability, trust, kindness, hard work, respect, and truth, I ask you to stand with me against the censorship of

history, to defend the values this country was purportedly built on, and to vote in opposition to House Bill 322 and House Bill 327.