

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. My name is Alia Dietsch. I am an Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University. **I strongly oppose HB 322.**

As a professional educator in our state's premier land-grant institution, I oppose this bill. This bill tarnishes American ideals of democracy. My approach to teaching encourages all students to fully consider the history of this country so that we can address injustices and inequality, such as poverty, that affects so many Americans. Students at OSU value and request that we as instructors raise different viewpoints and teach deliberate and constructive approaches to understanding diverse perspectives, and understanding of past and current conditions, so we may achieve better outcomes for all. Why would we silence our future? This bill devalues our students by prohibiting open discussion of current events, civil and human rights, and past and present sources of inequality and division in our society. By doing so, this legislation assumes that students are unable to process new ideas, weigh evidence and information, and draw meaningful conclusions. Having taught at OSU for 6 years, I know our students demand and deserve more from our educational system and our government than to be silenced.

As a professor, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony OPPOSING HB 322 and to vote NO on this 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 alia.dietsch@gmail.com or by cell at 970-391-9584.

Respectfully submitted,
Alia Dietsch
Assistant Professor
The Ohio State University