

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322
Donna Fagerhaug
State and Local Government Committee
September 21, 2021

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Rep. Kelly, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Donna Fagerhaug. I am a concerned resident of the community of Rocky River. I strongly oppose HB 322.

The Ohio Revised code states that academic standards should, “Include the essential academic content ... that will allow each student to be prepared for ... success in the twenty-first century,” and “include real-world learning opportunities.”

My community Rocky River is a predominantly white, Christian suburb. It is far too easy for communities like mine to pretend that real-world problems like racism don't exist. To pretend that LGBTQ+ people don't exist. Well, pretending things don't exist doesn't make them go away and it certainly doesn't equip our students for success in the twenty-first century.

In a global community that is predominantly non-white, we need to include real-world learning opportunities for our children about diversity, inclusion and equality.

Instead of pushing LGBTQ+ students to the margins where they can spiral into depression and anxiety, Ohio schools need to be leaders of inclusion and support those students to achieve success, free of bullying and help them find their place in the real world of the twenty-first century.

Issues of race and sex are issues of the twenty-first century. Current events are real-world learning opportunities. These things need to be taught not banned.

I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB 322 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify.
Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fagerhaug