

Opponent Testimony on [HB 322 / HB 327]
Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
September 21, 2021

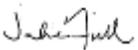
Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. Julie Field. I am an archaeologist in the Department of Anthropology at Ohio State University. I am also the parent of two elementary school students in Columbus City Schools. As a scientist, educator, and parent, I strongly oppose HB 322 / 327.

As an archaeologist, I oppose this bill because it violates my academic freedom. I study the people and cultures of the world, their collective experience, and their history. This bill will seek to illegally limit my research of ancient societies, their history, and why the diversity of human experiences in this past are relevant to modern human interaction. It will also prohibit K-12 educators to teach my Ohio-born children the factual history of the state, and it will result in a generation of students who do not know or understand the history of Ohio, or the nation.

I also oppose this bill as it seeks to stifle student debate, analysis, and understanding of complex social realities. It also debases the experiences of people of color, who still experience prejudice and inequality within a predominantly white society. This bill goes in the opposite direction from building knowledge and understanding—and seeks to hide and distort history, rather than learn from it.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed.

Respectfully submitted,



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