

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322
Koyen Shah
State and Local Government Committee
September 21, 2021

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony today. My name is Koyen Shah. I have been a teacher in Ohio since 1998. I strongly oppose HB 322.

As a teacher, I oppose this bill because...

- It curtails the ability of educators, community leaders and students to fully examine our history, our art and literature, and our social constructs. I advocate for a comprehensive historically accurate and inclusive approach that not only affirms but integrates all identities, cultures and experiences into discussions, lessons and curricula.
- It discourages informed citizenship, civic engagement, and community outreach through action civics, service learning and advocacy projects.
- It prevents students from better understanding their differences in individual identity, experience and culture
- It impairs Ohio's economic growth and viability by restricting skills necessary for job readiness and productive teamwork.
- It hinders strong workforce development by driving competitive talent away from Ohio
- It limits a teacher's ability to address students in accordance with the way they identify. Teachers must be able to respond to their students in a manner that is consistent with who they are.

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

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Koyen Shah