

9/18/21

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 testimony. My name is Maggie Herlihy. I am a high school student here in Columbus. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 322 and House Bill 327.

There is a T-Mobile ad circulating right now. A woman is stressed over what to wear to an upcoming gathering. Her coworker, over facetime, tells her not to wear something crazy, reminding her it's a business dinner, not a costume party. But with bad connection, all the woman hears is "wear something crazy" and "it's a costume party", so she dresses the part. She shows up at a business dinner in a wild Halloween outfit, looking very out of place.

This woman operated on misinformation: she only heard part of the story, so she was ill-prepared. This is parallel to what my education -- and the education of all other Ohio students -- will resemble if we are not given the full story. And, as a consequence, we will be like the unknowing costumed party-goer, unarmed with the truth and therefore out of step/touch with reality. Sure, the T-Mobile ad is a silly one, and the misinformation is the result of an honest and innocent miscommunication due to spotty coverage. These bills are purposeful miscommunication due to selective and calculated censorship.

Honesty in education should not be a debate. These bills indicate that their writers and supporters are immature and irresponsible.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote no on this harmful and ignorant bill.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to testify.