

RE: HB 322

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee,

As an educator and a parent of two K-12 students, I am appalled by the attempt of the Ohio Legislator to circumscribe in class discussions on race, sex, gender, and other matters of contemporary discourse. House Bill 322 details standards Ohio schools must adopt, many of which require open and honest discussions about historical and current events.

For our students to be prepared for college and the work-force, for our students to have the knowledge expected of civically engaged citizens, they must understand the debates that are raging in the community and the world. Teaching about the debates does not require indoctrination or guilt. When done well, discussions of race, class, sex, gender promote understanding and encourage common ground among participants. Rather than focus on academic excellent, House Bill 322 undermines student success and places an undue burden on the teachers. It demonstrates a close-mindedness and fear, which is more consonant with oppression regimes than a free and open society.

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