

**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322
Submitted by Naomi Worthington
State and Local Government Committee
9/21/21**

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Naomi Worthington. I am a professional writer with a graduate degree in writing. I strongly oppose HB 322.

As a someone who has dedicated my life to studying the effective use of language, I oppose these bills because the prohibited ideas are vague, as are the behaviors that constitute a violation. It is hard to know what evidence would substantiate guilt and how to assign responsibility when a discussion veers from the proscribed path.

The legislation is too subjective to lend itself to fair enforcement, and instead creates a minefield of semantics which places a heavy burden on the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education, and the Chancellor of Higher Education to enforce laws that contradict the purposes, ethics, and standards of the institutions that they lead.

As a writer and concerned citizen, 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,
Naomi Worthington