

**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322 OR House Bill 327
Simone Chordas (Student of Grandview Heights High School)
State and Local Government Committee
September 21st, 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 testify today. My name is Simone Chordas. I am a student in Columbus Ohio. I strongly oppose House Bill 322.

As a student and resident of Ohio I oppose these bills because they prohibit growth and prosperity within the education system in Ohio. Without transparency, we cannot move forward from some of the United States' darker times in history. Without recognition, historical events go without value, and don't offer learning. Not only historical events, but concepts as a whole must be addressed and discussed in order to create a safe and open space. School should not be a place where topics should be avoided or frowned upon. The whole purpose of school is to learn, further our minds, prepare us for the real world even. Without discussing real world topics, how can this be accomplished?

House bill 322 allows for the normalization of trauma within staff and students. It also prevents pathways to recognizing and healing from past events and traumas, through intellectual discussions and open minded thinking.

As a concerned student and resident, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing or supporting house bill 322 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify.
Respectfully submitted,
Simone Chordas
Student and resident of Columbus Ohio