

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 327
Debra Watts, President/Founder, Learn, Lead, Live
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 testify today. My name is Debra Watts. I am a consultant, facilitator, educator, and trainer of equity, inclusion, diversity, and the complete telling of our collective history; which can be a very uncomfortable history. I strongly oppose HB 327.

As a consultant, facilitator, educator, and trainer of equity, inclusion, diversity, and the complete telling of our collective history; which can be a very uncomfortable history I oppose this bill because this bill violates our First Amendment right to free speech. It limits and distorts our full American History. It promotes the ideology of one people group and dismisses and makes visible all other Ohioians. While the learning and sharing of our complete history can be uncomfortable, it can also bring us together with a collective appreciation of our contributions, struggles, and compromises that contributed to our Ohio history and our American history. People that do not know their history are doomed to repeat it. This failure will not only hurt Ohioians, it will hurt us all as other countries flourish in the freedom of knowing, learning, growing, and thriving in the light of their complete known history. We must not use this bill to further harm our education system. We must be bold and courageous in our ability to learn and grow together in truth where the "good and bad" of our history are taught, like Govern DeWine said. Passing this bill negates that possibility.

As a consultant, facilitator, educator, and trainer of equity, inclusion, diversity, and the complete telling of our collective history; which can be a very uncomfortable history , I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB 327 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed. You may reach me at learnleadlive2020@gamil.com

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Watts
President/Founder
Learn, Lead, Live