

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 327
Instructor and Students of POL 7101, Department of Political Science University
of Cincinnati
State and Local Government Committee
September 20, 2021

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

Thank you for allowing us to testify today. Our names are: Lakisha Clinton, Ania Cosby, Richard Courtney, Dr. Tia Sheree Gaynor, Adriana Hernandez, Kiara Johnson, Le 'Wanda Laboy, Jin Kyung Lee, Anne Mier, Harrison Monye, Alexis Roark, and Ryane Sickles. We are graduate students and a graduate professor that strongly opposes HB 327.

As scholars and students in the field of public administration, we oppose this bill for the following reasons:

As currently drafted, the bill would inhibit students to inspect the true material world that they reside in and must interact with every day. [Research](#) has demonstrated that exposure to what this bill considers “divisive concepts” enhances student learning including “a spectrum of learning, from recall and comprehension to critical evaluation, new worldviews, and behavior change”. As such, limiting students’ ability to engage in critical conversations in the classroom would have a negative impact on the integrity of higher education in the state of Ohio while also improperly preparing students to communicate history, knowledge and facts without prejudice.

According to a study conducted by [WalletHub](#), Ohio is ranked #45 out of 50 states for racial equality, in other words Ohio is one of the MOST unequal states in the country. Furthermore, the [National Equity Atlas](#) database indicates that Ohio loses \$40B in GDP due to racial inequity. By teaching “divisive concepts” early and consistently throughout a person’s life, we can instill the lessons needed for young Ohioans to work together and eventually lead the state into a more affluent future. Passing this bill would stifle the state’s potential for economic growth.

As students, scholars, and professionals working and living in Ohio, we ask you to strongly consider our testimony opposing HB 327 and vote **NO** on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify. On behalf the POL 7101 class at the University of Cincinnati, I, Dr. Tia Sheree Gaynor, would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed. You may reach me at tiasheree.gaynor@uc.edu.

Respectfully submitted,

Lakisha Clinton, Ania Cosby, Richard Courtney, Dr. Tia Sheree Gaynor, Adriana Hernandez, Kiara Johnson, Le 'Wanda Laboy, Jin Kyung Lee, Anne Mier, Harrison Monye, Alexis Roark, and Ryane Sickles.