

Testimony of Susan C. Wolpert

Before the House Higher Education Committee  
Rep. Tom Young, Chair  
Wednesday May 17, 2023

Chair Young, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Susan Wolpert, and I am submitting testimony as a member of Third Act – Ohio in opposition to Substitute House Bill 151.

I strongly oppose HB 151 and urge you to vote NO.

I treasure the importance of reality based rigorous educational environments. If enacted this bill will harm Ohioans now and into the future by confusing knowledge based on scientific research and knowledge based on the wishful thinking and beliefs of some individuals. It is obvious that the bill is a politically motivated and biased attempt to limit the teaching of science and ideas that have been rigorously researched simply to suite the current representatives. For example, climate change is impacting all of us in negative ways regardless of your political beliefs; intense storms, floodings, fires, heat waves, loss of diversity of plants and animals, and refugees on the move from uninhabitable homelands impacts us all. We need the students of Ohio to learn about what is happening and discover solutions that will increase the health and well-being of us all.

There are other areas of knowledge that are also based in research that this bill is trying to make disappear from the classrooms, board rooms, and administrations simply because these areas of knowledge make some people uncomfortable. We need to have a population educated about the reality of the results of racism so that we can discover solutions to the problems of health and wealth disparities that are based on race alone.

All of our children, no matter their gender, race, religion, or ethnicity need to have access to our state institutions and protection from discrimination and exclusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have via the contact information provided.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you consider my testimony and vote No on this misleading and harmful bill.