

Chair Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee; I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 103 today.

H.B. 103 creates the Ohio State Social Studies Task Force to craft Social Studies standards to replace the existing standards in Ohio that are vague, open-ended and lack in academic rigor. These existing standards leave Ohio students vulnerable to the political ideology of any classroom teacher. The task force will include 9 members; 3 appointed by the Governor, 3 appointed by the Speaker of the House, and 3 appointed by the Senate President. The task force will use the “*American Birthright: The Civics Alliance’s Model K-12 Social Studies Standards*” as a base and rely on input from parents, teachers and administrators to craft the final standards that will then need approval from the General Assembly. Once the standards have been crafted and implemented, the task force will cease to exist.

While the State Board of Education has crafted the previous standards, their failure to hit the mark and make much needed updates has necessitated action of the General Assembly. The *American Birthright* standards are a return to America’s bedrock principles. The standards are liberty focused and based on a proud telling of America’s liberty story. The new standards will stand in the way of those who misrepresent America’s origins, such as the *1619 project* and *A People’s History of the United States*. The *American Birthright* focuses on History, Geography, Civics and Economics, Social Studies pillars that are hardly controversial. America is a country founded on the principles of Liberty and Justice for all and that all men are created equal. It is crucial that those principles be presented to every young Ohioan who is learning today. It is time for Ohio to have transparent and objective learning goals that will strengthen Ohio’s public schools for the future.

As a former teacher myself, I understand how important it is for teachers to maintain local control and teach a curriculum they see best for their students. This bill only seeks to set new standards and does not dictate any curriculum, we will leave that up to our teachers. Instead, these standards will serve as guardrails, rooted in teaching the rich history of America. By crafting new standards on this basis we can ensure all Ohio students receive an accurate, non-partisan Social Studies education and strengthen Ohio’s public schools.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today and I would be happy to answer any questions.