

Dave Peterson, NAS/Civics Alliance Testimony, Ohio HB 103

My name is Dave Peterson and I am a member of the National Association of Scholars and the Civics Alliance. It is heartening to see the State of Ohio considering Civics Alliance's American Birthright: The Civics Alliance's Model K-12 Social Studies Standards.

My understanding is that HB 103 would create The Ohio Social Studies Standards Task Force, which would then use American Birthright as the basis for new social studies standards for Ohio schools. This would also include American historic and founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights, the Ohio State Constitution.

These documents express a set of ideas and ideals that are the major foundation of Western Civilization. These provided the basis for the expansion of freedom to all, the end of slavery and made the Civil Rights Movement possible. Through that freedom, they provided the opportunities for creativity and innovation which created the technology and culture of the modern world. This will only continue if these ideas and ideals are transmitted to future generations. This is the main task of civics education. So far, no other ideas or theories seem capable of replacing these. While there are those that have been proposed, and often seem idealistic and emotionally gratifying, history shows that they have typically failed. The evidence is seen in failed states and governments. Without the inculcation of these traditions to future generations, ours will be one of those failed states. American Birthright provides a guide for the preservation and transmission of these into the future.

I look forward to the movement of HB 103 through the legislative process and await the outcome.