

Chair Bird, Vice-Chair Fowler, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Ryan Welt. I am a high school social studies teacher at Franklin High School. I am strongly opposed to HB 103.

I have just begun graduate courses to be able to teach, and be best equipped to teach, Advanced Placement and College Credit Plus social studies courses. This has been a dream and a goal of mine since I first decided to enter education as a profession. I am concerned for the lack of an answer provided on what this bill will do in regards to courses like these. In addition to the economic threat this could have against students and families who rely on these classes for the opportunity to afford college, I am concerned about the effect that this has on educators in the state of Ohio.

I am in my third year as an educator. I am twenty six years old. I have plenty of opportunity to switch careers and legislation like HB 103 makes me consider these possibilities. In December of 2022 the Ohio General Assembly passed HB 554 Require issuance of certain temporary educator licenses. This bill was designed to encourage teachers who had left the profession to return in an effort to combat the ongoing teacher shortage in Ohio. HB 103 directly undercuts efforts to encourage people to become teachers in Ohio by changing expectations, goals, and standards without the consultation of Ohio social studies educators. I love teaching. I have no intention of leaving the profession. But HB 103 shows new and preservice teachers that Ohio is not committed to best practices in education, is not committed to consistency in expectations, and is not committed to supporting its educators. This bill would exacerbate the teacher shortage and leave school districts, social studies teachers, and students under supported to navigate the challenges the state and the nation face.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote no on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Ryan Welt