

## HB 103, Opponent Testimony

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee,

My name is Sharon Kim. I am an Ohio resident and parent to two young children who are Columbus City Schools students. I am writing today in vehement opposition to the proposed American Birthright Curriculum requirement, and I ask that you reject this legislation.

My husband and I made the very important choice to stay and invest in Ohio because this is our home. We also made the choice to keep our children in the public school system because of this same commitment. When I learned about the proposed curriculum requirements in HB 103, I was appalled, not just at the content of the curriculum but also that this committee and the Ohio legislative body at large would even consider any sort of outside influence and specific direction from the out of state, New York based entity, the Civics Alliance, to dictate what our Ohio children should be taught.

Every Ohio student should be given an honest, high-quality education grounded in truth, facts and a wide range of perspectives that mirror the demographics of our state. At present, of the 1.6 millions Ohio students enrolled in public K-12 schools, nearly 35% of our Ohio students are Black, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaskan Native, or Multiracial ([source](#)). The curriculum proposed in HB 103 is an attempt to reduce social studies to an outdated and myopic narrative of U.S. and Western history. The National and Ohio Council for the Social Studies, consisting of widely respected experts who currently develop intensive, comprehensive social studies standards for our state, reject House Bill 103 and the American Birthright Curriculum.

From the National Council for the Social Studies, the largest professional organization devoted exclusively to the teaching and learning of social studies who represents over 10,000 social studies educators, including our own Ohio social studies educators, they state: “the suggested social studies standards developed by the Civics Alliance **do not align with best practices related to the development of social studies standards**. If implemented in schools, **these suggested standards would have damaging and lasting effects on the civic knowledge of students and their capacity to engage in civic reasoning and deliberation.**”

Our responsibility to the children of Ohio and their education is also our responsibility to shape and create Ohio’s future. HB 103 threatens not just the quality and content of our children’s education, but also directly threatens the ability of our young Ohioans to be able to meet the challenges that come when engaging with large organizations of innovation, many of which, like Intel, are already committed to moving here.

I strongly urge this committee to reject HB 103. I strongly urge this committee to consult with Ohio based education experts who understand how to educate our Ohio students about all aspect of our shared history, contributions, and society.

Sharon Kim