

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 5/15/2023

Name: Greg Milo

Are you representing: Representing myself

Organization (If Applicable): Akron Public Schools

Position/Title: Teacher

Address: 1603 Delia Ave.

City: State: Zip: Akron, Ohio 44320

Best Contact Telephone: 330715-5555 Email: gmilo@apslearns.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 103

Specific Issue: Adoption of the American Birthright standards

Testifying as a: Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Written

statement

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? Written-only testimony

Please provide a brief statement on your position:
Written only testimony for House Bill 103

The introduction of the American Birthright standards states, “We must restore American social studies instruction centered on liberty if we are to restore the American republic to good health.”

I’m troubled by the assumption that the country is in poor health. Perhaps the authors have not met the students I’ve worked with for 20 years—the very bright, diligent, and creative students who I have taught at both private and public schools. But let’s assume that the country is ill as the American Birthright standards suggest. Solving an illness takes a critical analysis. It takes breaking down a situation to its core.

A struggling sports team (like my Cleveland franchises) doesn’t improve by looking backwards and repeating the same mistakes. It makes the hard decision to change in order to improve, as difficult as that might be. It takes self-reflection. It takes self-reflection that hopefully highlights faults that can be fixed in order to address the illness.

Something I’m still waiting for from my Cleveland Browns. But even they have not reverted to running the early T-formation every play just because it worked for Paul Brown in the 1940s.

If we’re truly serious about preparing our students to compete with the best of other countries, some not being so friendly, then we should encourage our students to question our history, not blindly celebrate it.

If the country is broken, we broke it, not our students. But let’s entrust them with the sometimes uncomfortable ability to self reflect. Because if we really believe in liberty, then the students should have the liberty to question us.

The American Birthright states that the inspiration for its creation was birthed from fear—a fear that the bedrock of the United States is under attack by an education system that seeks to recruit students into activist organizations with grievances toward the country. Social studies standards should not be conceived by fear; rather, new Ohio standards should be created by positive, yet critical, Ohio educators who are motivated by the enthusiasm of the school year, not the fear of liberty.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.