

I am Marilyn Orseno, a social studies teacher in Ohio and one of the Northeast Ohio Representative's for the Ohio Council for Social Studies. HB 103 would negatively alter the state of Social Studies education in the state of Ohio. The following Federalist 1 quote came to mind as I read through HB 103 - "It has been frequently remarked that it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force." Establishing a taskforce of 9 hand-selected members to represent the interests of nearly 12 million Ohioans by agreeing upon a canned and heavily watered-down curriculum written by the Civics Alliance takes away the ability to reflect, debate, and design the standards that are best for students in Ohio. Taking away the people's ability to choose goes against the founding ideals the American Birthright curriculum claims to embrace. Additionally, if the American Birthright curriculum is adopted, students will not even be exposed to Federalist 1 until they are in 12th grade. I believe the citizens of Ohio deserve the ability to choose what works for Ohio and have representatives whose actions show that they believe the same. HB 103 provides an opportunity to answer whether or not the Ohio legislature "is really capable or not of establishing good [social studies curriculum] from reflection and choice..." (Fed. 1) I strongly oppose the passage of HB 103, as I believe in the capacity of reflection and choice.