

December 8, 2023

Chair Bird, Vice-Chair Fowler, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important legislation. My name is Bill Hilt, and I have been a social studies teacher in Perrysburg, Ohio for the past thirty years. I am the President of the Ohio Council for the Social Studies and President/CEO of the World Affairs Council of Northwest Ohio.

I grew up in a suburban setting that reflected my ethnicity, religion, language, culture, and socio-economic status. It was very comfortable, and I was pleased with my education. I started university at a small college in Bluffton, Ohio, and that was when I first realized that not everyone saw the world the way I did. Thankfully, I was given many opportunities to experience new and interesting perspectives, which have informed my life at almost every turn and made an immeasurable difference for me and those I have influenced.

All Students deserve the opportunity to see themselves and their communities reflected in their own educational experience, and HB 171 will set a foot on the path to ensuring more opportunities for *all* of Ohio's students. "Ensuring ALL Students Achieve Their Greatest Potential" is the mission statement of my district. The state of Ohio should encourage such a standard as well. I encourage you to support HB171.

William A. Hilt
24275 Stony Ridge Rd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551
bhilt@perrysburgschools.net
419 270 0819