



# OHIO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NETWORK

*A Network of Center for Christian Virtue*

HB155 Proponent Testimony  
House Education Committee  
Troy McIntosh, Executive Director  
May 20, 2025

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Good afternoon Chair Fowler-Arthur, Vice-Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the house Education Committee. My name is Troy McIntosh and I serve as the Executive Director of the Ohio Christian Education Network. I stand in support of HB155.

Let me be clear from the start. As educators, we believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion are often virtues and social goods, particularly when taken within the context of a larger sense of justice and goodness. We do not oppose these concepts on their own. But they possess the same susceptibility that all virtues possess; that is the possibility of being corrupted when improperly ordered. Any truth or virtue that comprises the totality of truth or goodness becomes corrupted when it is raised independently to the totality of truth or goodness. This is how good ideas become –isms that are harmful to society. Nearly every –ism that ravaged the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century sprouted this way – racism, nationalism, existentialism, cronyism all arose from taking a portion of the truth and raising it to the totality of truth.

This is exactly what is happening with DEI, which might better be described as diversitism, equitism, and inclusionism, as if they were the sole or primary organizing principles of social and human relationships. Teaching diversity as a good apart from unity is a balkanizing practice. Those two principles must be held in tension with each other. It is why our national motto is E Pluribus Unum – Out of Many, One. Instead, DEI programs almost universally depict diversity as our strength. Indeed, it separates individuals into groups based on race, gender, or other identifiers such that it is common to state that one group cannot or even should not speak about the other’s experiences. They are often told to “sit this one out”, as if one race or one gender can have nothing to say to the other. This is why it is balkanizing, destroying the value of both diversity and unity within our society and creating divisions so deep that anger, resentment, and perhaps violence are seen as the only viable response.

When we make an –ism out of otherwise worthy idea, that idea becomes incoherent and eventually runs counter to the original goodness of the idea. They end up devouring even themselves, let alone those who oppose them. We have seen countless examples of this already:

- An otherwise progressive Prof. Weinstein of Evergreen State U. being forced to resign because of his objection to a DEI-informed day in which white students were not to come to campus.



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- Journalist Bari Weiss, a self-identified liberal in a same-sex marriage faced such hostility in the New York Times newsroom because of her questioning things like DEI principles that she was compelled to resign and start a competing news organization.
- A [survey](#) of high school students revealed that 61% reported that conservative students faced uncivil treatment in class, despite only 2% of the survey respondents identifying as conservative.

None of this is meant to diminish the historic injustice that certain groups such as black Americans have faced in our country and state. We know that racism exists and that there are real victims to it. But the solution cannot be to supplant racism with three other –isms that are just as destructive.

We urge you to take the lessons of history seriously because we have already seen where this train leads. Eighteenth century France was a cauldron of boiling social problems. Arising out of that was a utopian revolution – quite different from our own American revolution – naming Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity as the ideals to be held above all others. This LEF program, shall we call it, not only devoured its own leader in Robespierre, but instituted a reign of terror for years against those who were suspected of ordering the virtues differently.

We urge you to reject DEI programs that are teaching our state’s children –isms that I’m not sure we can control. Instead, we urge the state to look to the best of American ideals, equal justice under the law, freedom of expression, religion, and association, and a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The passage of HB155 is an important step toward that. Thank you.