

Chair, Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, and Ranking Member
Robinson and Members of the Education Committee

My name is Tim Throckmorton. I Pastored here in Ohio for 22 years and for the last 8 years I have served as the National Director of Church Engagement and Community Impact for the Family Research Council in Washington DC. I speak today in support of House Bill 155.

Speaking to the potential dangers of DEI, The Family Research Council's Kathy Athearn in the Washington Stand writes recently... It started to become mainstream in American universities in 1989 and now runs rampant in our culture through the implementation of critical race theory (CRT) and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies. Authors Mike Gonzalez and Katharine Gorka thoroughly researched and exposed the history and organization of the Left in Next Gen Marxism.

Thankfully, not only do they reveal how organized, international, and powerful the Left is, but they also show how powerful and effective passionate citizens — especially parents — have been at stopping it in recent years... NextGen Marxism (or cultural Marxism) is a philosophy implemented by “social justice” warriors through DEI policies that — over the last few years especially — companies and schools are expected to implement. If they don't, they are labeled as heteronormative, sexist, white supremacist oppressors, and likely to be canceled.

Gonzalez and Gorka explain: “the social upheaval we are experiencing in the United States today is the result of a zero-sum view of the world, a world of irreconcilable antagonisms, one in which the open exchange of ideas is replaced by a rigid orthodoxy, in which there is no room for dissent, in which people are reduced to their skin color or sexual orientation. It is a worldview that sees the United States as fundamentally flawed and for which the sole antidote is its destruction and rebuilding.

Marxists believe that humankind can be perfected, and that utopia can be attained here on earth (whereas Christians know that humans have been sinful since the fall and only will experience paradise in the new heaven and new earth). In order for Marxists to attain utopia, they believe they must tear down norms and traditions, the “trinity of the most monstrous evils”: private property, religion, and marriage.

Gonzalez and Gorka write: “One can draw a straight line from the anti-family, anti-morality position of [Robert] Owen and other utopians and socialists of the 1800s to BLM in 2020, which posted on its website (and subsequently removed following heavy criticism) the goal of destroying the nuclear family: “[W]e disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear-family-structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and ‘villages’ that collectively care for one another.”

Over the last 10 years, the Marxist Left has been successful at influencing schools, businesses, and the entertainment industry by making catchphrases such as “racial reckoning,” “marginalized groups,” and “heteronormative” a part of America’s everyday vocabulary. But that is exactly why we must fight to protect what we build and reclaim what has been stolen. This is why HB 155 is so very important for the future of Ohio and the millions this ideology threatens.

Meg Kilgannon served as Senior Fellow for Education Studies at Family Research Council. Previously she served at the U.S. Department of Education as Director of the Office of Faith and Opportunity Initiatives in the Trump administration. She currently serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships in the Office of United States Secretary of Education Linda McMahon. Kilgannon writes, “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is a practical application of Critical Race Theory. DEI positions or offices are well established in colleges and universities,²³ and many school districts have adopted the practice of employing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer or other ranking official. Employees in this role or office will advance diversity initiatives in hiring or review the school system’s practices to achieve “equity.” In

addition to sponsoring outreach events to promote DEI, these officials will also investigate “bias incidents” or create “bias response teams” to act on claims of injustice.” This is not good for America and certainly not good for the children of America!

According to the Washington Stand, in February, the department sent out a “Dear Colleague” letter warning schools to eliminate their DEI programs or face losing federal funding. It read, “American educational institutions have discriminated against students on the basis of race, including white and Asian students. These institutions’ embrace of pervasive and repugnant race-based preferences and other forms of racial discrimination have emanated throughout every facet of academia.” In addition to this, Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Craig Trainor wrote in a statement that the administration’s aim of “directing schools to end the use of racial preferences and race stereotypes in their programs and activities [is] a victory for justice, civil rights laws, and the Constitution.”

As The Washington Times reported, investigators are zeroing in on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which bans discrimination based on race, color, or national origin at any institution cashing federal checks. Caught in the crosshairs of these investigations are big-name institutions such as Yale, Harvard, Columbia, George Mason, Georgetown, and New York University — a list that barely scratches the surface. Many of these probes are specifically geared toward schools that are connected to the PhD Project, which, according to the Associated Press, is “a nonprofit that helps students from underrepresented groups get degrees in business with the goal of diversifying the business world.”

In a comment to The Washington Stand, Meg Kilgannon, said, “Children deserve an ordered environment for learning. Some children come to school eager to learn; they should have order to do so. Some children come to school needing structure to contain their energy; they also should have order to do so. Nothing good comes from allowing chaos in the name of social justice. As Christians, we must pray for all children,

their parents and teachers.” And I would add, protect the precious young minds of the children of Ohio!

I stand in favor of HB 155 and urge you to support it as well!

Respectfully submitted
Tim Throckmorton