

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice-Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Brennan, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

Thank you for accepting my testimony. My name is **Kelley Stocker**, and I am a high school government teacher as well as the parent of a first grader in Ohio's public schools.

I am **strongly opposed to House Bill 486, The Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act.**

As a government teacher, I work every day to help students understand and engage thoughtfully with our nation's founding principles, institutions, and civic responsibilities. Ohio's current social studies standards already include extensive instruction on American history, government, and the Constitution—rooted in rigorous academic research and best teaching practices. HB 486 is **redundant** and risks politicizing what should be an objective and inclusive educational process.

Furthermore, by privileging a narrow and religiously framed interpretation of "American heritage," this bill undermines the professional integrity of educators and the collaborative curriculum development processes established by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Effective civic education should reflect the full, diverse story of America—its ideals and its imperfections—so students learn to think critically, not simply recite a prescribed narrative.

As both a teacher and a parent, I want my students and my own child to develop a deep, informed love of country grounded in understanding, not ideology. HB 486 threatens that goal.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote **NO** on this **harmful and unnecessary bill**. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.