

Chair Fowler-Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the Ohio Education Committee; thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony for HB 486.

The false narrative that this piece of legislation mandates a positive outlook of Christianity, changes the law, or prohibits the teaching or discussion of the adverse aspects of American history is ludicrous.

To exclude or even minimize the vast influence of Christianity on the United States from history is to *lie*. No matter how hard the opposition wishes to change this, the US was founded on Christian principles by majority Christian men. One of the nation's most important founding documents, The Declaration of Independence, refers to God four times. This is incredibly important to teach without fear of being sued or receiving an intimidating letter.

This bill clarifies an educator's ability to teach that truth without bother. However, this fact is being pushed further and further on the backburner as the nation makes "progress." That is because the education system, specifically higher education, is not structured to create free, independent thinkers that value truth and tradition anymore. It is structured to produce ideologically identical individuals. This is the dark truth. Some of those that deny this fact have proven it to be true when testifying before this exact committee.

Testifying before this committee on October 21, 2025, Nick Bates with the Hunger Network in Ohio said, "[. . .] words in the text that encourage the positive impacts of Christianity should be removed." The positive impacts of Christianity are important features of history that should not be removed or reduced. Statements like these are exactly why HB 486 is necessary. Those that claim that this piece of legislation will pressure educators to teach only positives of Christianity in US history are the ones that are requiring it to be passed in the first place.

The fact of the matter is this: American history is filled with Christian history and influence. That's okay. There is nothing wrong with this legislation protecting that truth.

There has been a long, coordinated attack on the foundation of this nation, which is rooted in Christianity. As a young man currently enrolled in university, I constantly see the ideals that built this amazing nation be torn down and attacked. I see masculinity attacked, I see integrity attacked, and most of all, I see Christianity attacked. I hope this testimony will make even the slightest difference to stop it.

Thank you to members of the Committee for your time and attention to this important issue and I welcome any possible questions.