

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 486
House Committee on Education
11/12/25

Stuart Lukz

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Stuart Joseph Lukz. The proposals of House Bill 486 deeply concern me. I urge members of this committee to vote NO on this bill.

I am presenting my concerns with HB 486, the “Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act” which empowers instructors in public schools and colleges to promote the belief that U.S. culture and society have received “the positive influence of Christianity.” As a graduate in History from Ohio State University (with a focus on American history), and former Turning Point USA member, I find this metanarrative threatening to critical literacy in Ohio’s K-12 social studies education, and collegiate education by extension. With many religions and cultural traditions that have shaped our society, and that the Ohio Constitution allows instructors to teach neutrally, they deserve a shared place in educational exchange and dialogue. We must preserve the separation between religion and state, both in promoting its free exercise and refusing to establish any official religion.

I bring attention to a social studies framework proposal similar to HB 486: the nationwide Civics Alliance’s American Birthright model. It was proposed unsuccessfully to this Committee in 2023 (under HB 103). American Birthright received criticism from the largest social studies teachers’ association in the US, the National Council for the Social Studies. NCSS published a Current Events Response (Sep. 2022), which reached the conclusion that American Birthright does not promote “best practices in social studies education” and “does not align with [standards] recommended by experts in social studies content areas.” It further criticized the model “as an attempt to return to a time when United States social studies classrooms presented a single narrative of U.S. and Western history that glorified selected aspects of history while minimizing the experiences, contributions, and perspectives of Indigenous peoples, people of color, women, the LGBTQIA+ community, the working class, and countless others.” (¶2).

Please take heed of the education field’s opposition to singular narratives, and the opposing testimony of Ohio students and educators against the pending bill. I would urge you to vote “NO” on HB 486.

Sincerely,

Stuart Lukz
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