

Dear Representatives -

I am here today representing Citizens for a Better Beaver Creek.

When Senate Bill 1 eliminates Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, it is targeting Black people stuff? To a lot of us, that's how it feels, and what it looks like.

For example, does the bill prohibit presentations about the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.? You may protest it doesn't, but MLK said all kinds of things related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – are we only allowed to discuss those parts of his legacy that have been sanitized for consumption by thin-skinned White people?

Does the bill prohibit discussions about the bravery of Ruby Bridges? Surely you don't mean to silence the story of one of the bravest little girls who ever lived? You might protest that's not what you mean, but isn't her story related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?

Can we have presentations about John Lewis? Can we have discussions about Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Olympic Games? What about Ida B. Wells? Emmett Till?

It gives the truth away that no one is wondering if they can have discussions about George Washington, but we do have to wonder whether we can have discussions about George Washington Carver. No one questions whether we can have discussions about Thomas Jefferson, but we have to second guess whether we are allowed to have activities that celebrate Frederick Douglass or Rosa Parks.

I want to quote from The Hannah Report of February 13, 2025, regarding comments some Ohio state senators made about Senate Bill 1: "Cirino, Sen. Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware) and Sen. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) touted the bill's prohibitions on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies, saying they are "discriminatory." Discriminatory against who, it could be asked? Well, discriminatory against White people, of course.

When they say that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion discriminates against White people, I am here to tell you, White people don't know what discrimination is. How dare anyone claim that word "discrimination" somehow applies to White people, who hold all the power in our society? When have White people ever been subjected unwillingly to segregation? When has redlining ever targeted White people? What Jim Crow laws disenfranchised White people? When were White people ever banned from swimming pools because of the color of their skin? Compared to Black Americans, how often have White people ever been denied loans, or housing, or a seat on the bus, just because they are White? It is petty and ridiculous to argue that compensatory measures designed to address the impacts of historical wrongs against People of Color are discriminatory to White people.

I do not understand how we can all pretend Senate Bill 1 isn't anti-Black, when after it passes we will all have to wonder whether we can talk about Black figures in history and no one has to wonder whether we can talk about White figures in history.

Senate Bill 1 is cry baby White people legislation that has no business being considered in a state with such beautiful, powerful diversity.

Jared Cutler

Citizens for a Better Beaver creek

Beaver creek, Ohio