

**OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION
PROPONENT TESTIMONY
AIDAN C. HAGGARD
03/19/2025
9:00 AM E.S.T.**



AIDAN C.
HAGGARD

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY
BOX NUMBER 538
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ASHLAND, OHIO 44805

PROPONENT TESTIMONY BEFORE THE OHIO HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION
03/19/2025 9:00AM E.S.T.

CHAIR YOUNG, VICE CHAIR RITTER, RANKING MEMBERS PICCOLANTONIO,
AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WORKFORCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE,
THANK YOU FOR THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY IN FAVOR
ON THIS BILL BEFORE US, SENATE BILL ONE.

"WE THE PEOPLE," "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT,"
"IF MEN WERE ANGELS, NO GOVERNMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY," "FOUR SCORE
AND SEVEN YEARS AGO" ET CETERA, ET CETERA.

ALL OF THESE BRIEF QUOTES ARE BURNED INTO THE HEART OF OUR
AMERICAN STORY. THE AMERICAN STORY IS NOT ONE OF PERFECTION, IT
IS NOT ONE OF US ALWAYS BEING IN THE RIGHT. **NO MY FRIENDS. WE
HAVE FALLEN SHORT OF WHO WE OUGHT TO BE AS A NATION. BUT FALLING
SHORT IS NOT WHAT DEFINES US AMERICANS. WHAT DEFINES US IS OUR
CONTINUAL STRIVE TO LIVE UP TO THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR FOREFATHERS.**

THE AMERICAN STORY IS A GREAT STORY, AND IT IS WOVEN INTO OUR
HEARTS AND BOUND BY THE DOCUMENTS **THAT MADE US AND DEFINED US AS**
A NATION. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT WE OUGHT TO TEACH THEM TO THE
NEXT GENERATION OF OHIOANS, THROUGH OUR HIGHER EDUCATION, THE VALUES
OF OUR NATION. NOT JUST AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK LEVEL OF TOPICAL
STUDY, BUT A TRUE DEEP DIVE INTO OUR AMERICAN STORY. IF WE CAN DO
THIS, AND WE MAY SET OUR SELVES UP FOR SUCCESS, WE MAY MOVE FORWARD
TOWARDS A BETTER PREPARED STUDENT THAT MAY LIVE HIS OR HER AMERICAN
DREAM.



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ONE REQUIREMENT FROM SECTION 3345.382 IS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN ITS ENTIRETY. IT PROCLAIMS THAT "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUALLY." IT WAS NOT TILL ALMOST 100 YEARS LATER, HOWEVER, THAT THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY CAME FORTH THROUGH THE 13TH AMENDMENT. KNOWING BOTH OF THESE FACTS, THE GLEANING EYE OF A STUDENT COULD MAKE A RATIONAL ARGUMENT THAT THE FOUNDING FATHERS WERE HYPOCRITES. I SAY THAT THEY WERE NOT. HOWEVER, YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND MY CLAIM FULLY WITHOUT HAVING READ ALSO THE DRAFT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. IN THIS DRAFT, JEFFERSON USES ~~IMEN~~ TO DESCRIBE THE SELLING OF SLAVES, WHERE HE STATES "THIS PIRATICAL WARFARE, THE OPPROBRIUM OF INFIDEL POWERS, IS THE WARFARE OF THE CHRISTIAN KING OF GREAT BRITIAN, DETERM DETERMINED TO KEEP OPEN A MARKET," JEFFERSON WRITES, "WHERE **MEN** SHOULD BE BOUGHT AND SOLD." THROUGH THIS, AND ONLY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, MAY YOU REALIZED THAT JEFFERSON INCLUDED EVERY SINGLE HUMAN BEING WHEN HE ASSERTED THAT "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUALLY." IT IS FOR THIS REASON, THAT I BELIEVE THAT THE LEGISLATION IN FRONT OF US SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE DRAFT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

IMAGINE A STUDENT SO WELL VERSED IN THEIR COUNTRIES ORIGIN, THAT HE TOO MAY SHAPE HIS COUNTRY AND HIS FUTURE. FOR TO KNOW YOUR ORIGIN IS TO KNOW YOUR POTENTIAL FUTURE. LET US TEACH OUR STUDENTS HOW WE BECAME A GREAT NATION, HOW WE STRUGGLE AS A GREAT NATION, AND HOW WE GET BACK UP. LET US DO SUCH BY SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND SERVICE. I ENCOURAGE AND ENTERTAIN QUESTIONS IF THERE SHOULD BE ANY. THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS THE S.O.O.

"THROUGH THE CHAIR TO THE REPRESENTATIVE..."

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