

Written Testimony to the Ohio House of Representatives  
Daniel P. Regenold  
On House Bill 327

In July of 2020 I was worried most about staying free of Covid-19 and running my business, Frame USA, Inc., an American-Made Manufacturer of picture frames with 70 employees. But something happened that changed my mind and has caused me to center my focus around our Country. I live in the beautiful historic Village of Glendale, Ohio which is on the north side of Hamilton County. Around July 2020, a Council-Person from Glendale, Ohio who is African American decided to host and form a committee to study racism in our Village which is known for kindness, philanthropy, and black squirrels.

This Council-Person hosted her meeting, which was closed to the public, and only involved her own hand-picked group of people. Her meeting came to the conclusion that people in our little community were “implicitly biased”. Before we knew it, she had gotten the Mayor to agree to send out an email to the entire Village.

The Village of Glendale woke up the first week in July to find that everyone in the Village was labeled “implicitly bias”. This set off a shock wave in the community and the impact was wide-felt throughout the Village. People were surprised that they weren’t being looked at as individuals, that the “content of their character” was not being reviewed. Instead, 2000 residents were being painted with a broad-brushed of being racist.

A little later in the month, towards the end of July 2020, Commissioners in Hamilton County, Ohio unveiled a resolution declaring “Racism a Health Crisis” in the County and they moved to address systematic racism and promote justice. The Resolution explained that the Hamilton County Commissioners has partnered with Underground Railroad Museum to create a curriculum for private, public and nonprofits to educate their employees and residents about the impact historical and systematic racism has had African Americans. When I read the resolution, it appeared to me to be one of the first signs of Critical Race Theory. Curriculum, training employees, indoctrination, systematic racism.

I should not have been surprised when in January 2021 an attendee of a FREE lecture series I run EmpowerUOhio.org (a series of free classes started 11 years ago—have taught over 400 classes on Education \* Fun \*Engagement), called me and told me about a Resolution that had been passed by the State Board of Education to called the “Resolution to Condemn Racism and Advance Equity.”

The resolution passed by the State Board of Education was very similar to the resolution passed by Hamilton County Ohio. In some ways it looked almost identical like it was a cut-and-paste job. As I read the resolution it was clear, very quickly to me, that Critical Race Theory was coming, or already here in Ohio. Since the resolution passed last July, many, many schools have been able to start to implement the work, the training, and the indoctrination. The resolution sent the clear message that the schools needed to move forward with Critical Race Training.

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The Ohio Board of Education has not helped itself by posting things on their website which clearly are Critical Race Theory oriented. An article in The City Journal called “Smashing Whiteness” poked fun at the Ohio Board of Education. The article talks about how last school year the Board promoted a far-left racist, anti-police propaganda called the “Anti-Racist Allyship Starter Pack” a resource for social studies teachers. The pack contained about 200 links to “antiracist” op-eds, essay and blog posts including an article called “The Souls of White Folk” This all went up on the Ohio website. Articles said that “America today is a land of superstition and idolatry. It said that the chief idol is a 300 year old idea called “whiteness.”. Whiteness is a stone idol in the mind of white people in America that must be smashed into pieces like the idols of pre-Islamic Arabia”. And unless that happens, “there is no absolution possible.” This is crazy stuff from a The Ohio Board of Education.

Along with this, the Board has published on it’s website curriculum and class information about The 1619 Project. Despite the 1619 project being labeled inaccurate by most news outlets the Board of Education refused to take this information down off the website (it is still there), with School Board President Laura Kohler telling me “We trust our teachers.”. The 1619 Project teaches Ohioans that Democracy was born on the backs of African Americans. It also changes the founding date of our Country from 1776 to 1619.

As I started to study the Ohio Board of Education, the Resolution, the website, I came to the conclusion that the Board, with it’s 8-9 DeWine-Kasich appointees out of 19 had become radicalized. I wrote the Governor a letter on May 3 to tell him to beware and to watch the Board (never heard back from the Governor). I asked the Board of Education to speak at their April 13 meeting. I was told I would not be allowed to speak about “Race” as the Board President had made the determination that any discussion about race would not be allowed.

When the Board of Education refused my public comment on race I made the decision to file a Federal lawsuit against the Board for infringing on my 1<sup>st</sup> Amendments rights. The lawsuit will be heard soon in the Columbus Federal Court. I feel comfortable with my 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights and feel certain my rights will be upheld. The good news about the lawsuit is that it has clearly put the Ohio Board of Education under scrutiny—they need it. The Board’s failure to accept public comment on race should send a chilling message across Ohio.

The 610 School Districts are far too smart to come right out and say that they are practicing Critical Race Theory, they all flatly refuse to say that. But parents tell the story. Parents from Beachwood, Ohio, Olentangy, Kings School Systems, Lakota Schools Systems and Forest Hills, Ohio and others have started to come forward and tell us about their experiences that they have had with CRT starting to creep into their schools.

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Some cases of Critical Race Theory are more flagrant than others. Our FREE University at EmpowerU conducted a class on Critical Race Theory on May 11 and over 350 people attended—the largest class that we have ever hosted. We heard stories in King’s School District about student’s being forced to read Ibram X. Kendi’s book “How to Be an Antiracist.” It was told that one Christian girl came home and told her Mom, “Mom I can’t be a Christian and read this book.” In this book Mr. Kendi explains to us:

“There is not an in between safe space of ‘not racist.’ The claim of ‘not racist’ neutrality is a mask for racism.”

Since the May 11 event, a School Board Member from Kings, Mr. Dan Evans has come out (on video) and apologized to the community for allowing Kendi’s book to be read as a book in the School system. Evans said he “made a mistake” but just could not accept the book to be read in the King’s school system.

I ask you at this point to reflect on Ohio Board of Education President Kohler’s decision to stop public comment on race. At a time when the Ohio Legislature is considering legislation on Critical Race Theory, the Ohio Board of Education is not allowing any public comment on race. This should be a clear signal to the legislature that you need to take action.

Combine the Ohio Board of Education actions during this past year with the lack of leadership from Governor DeWine on Education and you have a problem. Understandably, Governor DeWine has been overwhelmed with Covid-19. But the Governor has provided mixed messaging on “Equity” and the importance of it. Equity of course, the important concept that a Government that can’t stop Unemployment fraud can somehow create “Equal Opportunity” in schools and everywhere else. “Equity”, which most people believe is a Marxist ideology—demands that groups, not the individual have comparable outcomes.

This “Equity” message being sent throughout all government in Ohio would be a huge change for Ohio’s citizens. After teaching maybe 40 classes about the founding our Country at EmpowerUOhio.org what is happening here in Ohio is straight-forward. Our founders were so clear about this....Washington and Hamilton—Washington the “People Person”, Hamilton the Brains said “We must be Unified, We must be United”, Jefferson frantically in his dying days worked on an education program for University of Virginia students saying –“We must enlighten our young people to be educated into the principles of liberty, and the principle that all men are created equal, from the Declaration which he wrote.” Jefferson talked about rights given to us from Nature and God, not about “Equity” not about equal outcomes. Lincoln after a terrible Civil War—said “We Are One”. How can our Country and students be unified if they are being divided by race—intentionally, through Critical Race Theory?

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The Governor's messaging in the last year has supported "Equity", a radical change that would allow discrimination through Ohio on schools and many other areas like Ohio Government. It has been suggested by the Governor's aides that at times the Governor may have interchanged the words "Equity" with "Equality", but the Governor's failure to come out and speak to Critical Race Theory and its impact on kids in schools is something that cannot be overlooked.

Is there any surprise here, that with the Governor's messaging, or lack of messaging, and with the messaging of the Ohio Board of Education that schools have started to move towards Critical Race Theory? The correlation between the messaging and action has been clear. Critical Race Theory is happening. The many consultants in Ohio's County ESC's have made this transition for schools to CRT easy. They go from one school to the next telling schools to have these training seminars on race or your school will fall behind others. The schools are just following what they have been told to do by the Governor and by The Ohio Board. The fault—clear.

If you need proof of the prevalence of Critical Race Theory go to our website [www.StopCriticalRaceTheory.com](http://www.StopCriticalRaceTheory.com), which is a Coalition of 27 Ohio Groups that are against Critical Race Theory in Ohio. On the website, you will find example after example of what is happening around Ohio and the nation.

So, I want to be honest with you. I've been critical of the Ohio Legislature during Covid-19 for your slowness to act—or even act all. Now I tell you, the Governor of Ohio is not engaged in this topic. The Ohio Legislature needs to act. Parents around the State of Ohio expect you to do something—soon, before the next school year.

The legislation that you have offered does a good job of sending clear signals. It gets away from some of the racist dog-whistles and keeps summary points that all Americans should be able to accept:

- Prohibits state agency's from teaching, instructing or training any administrator, teacher, staff, member or employee to adopt or believe any of the following concepts:
  - One race or sex is inherently superior to any other
  - Any individual, by virtue of their race or sex, is inherently racist or oppressive
  - An individual can't be discriminated against solely because of their individual race.
  - An individual's moral standing or worth is not determined by their race or sex....

I urge you to pass legislation on Critical Race Theory immediately. I prefer HB 327 because of its wider scope. Problems of CRT based thought exist in Ohio Government and in State and Local Government. Universities are a huge problem. We have start now to bring back equilibrium to the people of Ohio. I also thing HB 322 also does a good job, but its scope is too limited. We have to reset our Culture to the great Country that we have founded on Liberty.

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I am sorry I am not able to be with you today to discuss this in person. My wife and I are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and have had a trip planned for months and we leave today. Good Luck to you, please pass this bill.

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StopCriticalRaceTheory.com—a Coalition of 27 Ohio Groups

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