
PROPONENT TESTIMONY

DATE: June 23, 2021

TO: Members of the House State and Local Government Committee

FROM:

RE: Support for H.B. 327: Prohibit Teaching, Advocating, or Promoting Divisive Concepts

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, I appreciate the members of this committee hearing proponent testimony on House Bill 327, legislation declaring that Ohio Prohibit Teaching, Advocating, or Promoting Divisive Concepts.

As Chair and a Team Leader of Protect Ohio Children I recognized the need in March to create an anonymous resource for parents, students, and teachers to communicate their concerns over the teaching of "Critical Race Theory" ("CRT") in Ohio schools. My mobile number was distributed and as people called in, I gave them nicknames and then created anonymous drop-boxes for them to upload online content. I have received screen shots, cell phone images, video and audio capture, and over 100 pages of written accounts. The only piece of identifying information I receive is school district.

I have then created write-ups of as many of the accounts as I'm able and have distributed those either to the five (5) distribution lists I now manage or exclusively only to those people I know who live in the district in question.

When possible, I have communicated with School Boards and/or Superintendents to get response to whatever issues have been brought to the attention of Protect Ohio Children, for response.

Not one school district admits to utilizing CRT in their schools, even in the face of what I consider to be irrefutable evidence.

From those early days, we now have a Protect Ohio Children website, complete with tip-line resources.

The reasons people wish to be anonymous vary, but all boil down to one thing: intimidation. They feel that either they or their children will be ostracized for speaking out. Examples are many. People are being attacked online, kids bullied, employers contact, and jobs disrupted.

So Protect Ohio Children provides them voice.

I have selected three incidents for today's comments. I consider them representative of the broader issue.

- 1) A high-school aged high-achieving student, accustomed to receiving all A grades received a B on a paper. The student asked the teacher why the B and was led out into the hall. The answer given was, "you'll never understand because you won the lottery; you were born white in America." This is the reason given for the grade.
- 2) Teachers in a school district are now all forced to take instruction from a Parent Teacher Organization ("PTA"), comprised mostly of activist parents who create content on controversial

topics such as body image, race, gender, and sexuality. Every month a period is selected – 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, and all other class periods shortened, and the content provided by the PTA is to be taught. Teachers who balk, suggesting that they are not trained to address such issues or that this detracts from their instruction time are told they must or they'll be penalized.

- 3) In many school districts we have learned that "Continuing Education" for teachers consists in large part of anti-Police content; Police racial profiling commentary and how Police are a bad impact.

These are just a few of the many examples. More are pouring in. None of this has anything to do with helping prepare kids for entering society as productive or intelligent, well-rounded, self-determined people.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Broadbent