

Good afternoon.

Thank you Chair Wiggam and members of Ohio House Local State and Government Committee, Representative Kelly from our Hamilton County and Representative Arthur-Fowler, with whom I had the pleasure of serving on the Ohio Board of Education, for providing this platform for me to share my observations and experience as a career educator.

I have taught in K-12 as a middle school English teacher and currently teach in the Educational Leadership Departments of two universities: one that adheres to a contemporary world view through a critical race theory lens, and one that aligns with a Christian world view.

These two world views, especially when considered in an educational context, express divergent outcome realities regarding the sanctity of nurturing our youth to fulfill each's potential and the ultimate goal for which we are preparing our students.

Contemporary education challenges students to examine the world around them, learn an academic curriculum with ever increasing emphasis on the '*Social*' aspects of academics and emotional learning, with aspiration of graduating young adults grounded in social advocacy. Educators are compelled to slight time, allocated to teach academics, in order to instruct on values such as social justice, altruism, environmental awareness, to name a few, historically learned at home, in church and community, now delegated to the classroom.

Critical theory, focusing on race, challenges examination of all social institutions, that is to say 'everything,' through an individual's experience as a consequence of their skin color. Critical race theory makes assumptions about culture, communities, families, and individuals solely based on the superficial aspect of color, as opposed to intellect, character, and morals.

Education in the United States of America should be providing every student with a stable foundation, knowledge, and talent development, upon which each may build a productive future. Every child should be taught:

- ✓ That no nationality, ethnicity, sex, or color is inherently superior/inferior to any other,
- ✓ To treat everyone with respect and compassion, and acknowledge individual value based on character and positive contribution, and
- ✓ An accurate account of history in order to avoid destructive actions of the past and pursue a positive future.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by    Dr. Jenny Shafer Kilgore    June 23. 2021