
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.

I am a student at Solon High School. Over the course of my education, I have noticed teachers increasingly bringing their politics, opinions, and attitudes into the classroom. Real learning takes a backseat to social issues that many students may or may not agree with. We spend an inordinate amount of time talking about race and gender. While these may be important subjects for any individual to educate themselves with, it does not belong in my government funded daily education where I am supposed to gain the skills necessary for higher level education and learn the core subjects of math, science, (true) history, and reading/writing. The class which seems to have taken the most considerable amount of negative change happens to be my reading/writing courses, where the teacher is given the power to make me read material in which I disagree with and have me respond to these sources through essays, tests, and other assignments with questions that pose serious bias to the point where if I were to express my true opinion and disagree with the material being given to us, I would almost certainly be graded poorly on the assignment. Not to mention the unsaid assumption from the teacher that any literature given to us ranging from articles to books, are accepted in the classroom as the truth and nothing but the truth. It fosters an environment furthest from allowing students who may feel conservative in their political ideology to speak up and voice their opinion, let alone get a good grade for voicing their opinion.

Patrick Burke

6/20/2021