

Chairman Scott Wiggam, Vice Chair Marilyn John, and Ranking Member Brigid Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee... I am testifying today to support HB327 to prohibit teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts...Thank you for hearing my testimony.

My name is Paul Wyton. I live in West Milton, Ohio. I was encouraged by pastor Johnathan Newman of Koinos Christian Fellowship located in the city of Troy to give testimony in support of bill number HB327 to prohibit Critical Race Theory from being taught our schools.

I am a grandfather of 13 wonderful grandkids having raised four daughters in a third world developing context. I know many people who would jump at the opportunity to live in this country we call home. As a matter of fact, some of them perceived that on occasions when we would return to the USA to visit family and friends, they thought we were going to "heaven". Those of us living here certainly don't think we are living in heaven although for many of us our limited exposure to the reality of the way many others live, we are a nation that has been blessed by God.

I don't consider myself an authority on Critical Race Theory, but I have learned throughout my life that it is helpful to look at the origins of things to gain understanding. Researching the roots of Critical Race Theory, I came across names such as Karl Marx and Marx's concept of Conflict Theory and the Italian Marxist, Antonio Gramsci who developed the notion of hegemony, dividing societies into the oppressed and the oppressors. Gramsci was a founding member and one-time leader of the Communist Party of Italy. These ideologies are a threat to our Republic and the freedoms we enjoy.

I'm opposed to our grandchildren and potential future leaders of this great nation to be taught these Marxist ideologies. They have resulted in failed economies and tyrannical governments that suppress the very freedoms that this country enjoys and for which peoples from many other nations risk their lives to gain even though it is far from heaven.

For this reason, I support HB327 to prohibit Critical Race Theory from being taught in our schools.