

**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322  
Cecelia Benford  
State and Local Government Committee  
September 21, 2021**

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Representative Kelly, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Cecelia Benford. I am a recent retired contracts professional but currently work with issues related to leadership and diversity and am a grandparent of a child who may be affected by this bill. I also am a registered voter. I strongly oppose HB 322.

As a voting professional, leader, and volunteer I oppose these bills because these bills stifle true education and impose unnecessary penalties on our professional teachers. I have also been a teacher and I have always felt people should be told the truth. First of all, the author of the bill should not be referring to Critical Race Theory, because it's not what teachers would be presenting at the levels below college. Secondly, teaching about all ethnic groups is not divisive at all. This is something made up by a group of people presenting divisiveness. Currently, we do a disservice to students by withholding information. Teachers know how to teach, and children are smart enough and interested in learning what is put before them. Given the timing of this bill I don't have time to cite relevant data but I have lived through the effects of having to learn many things about my heritage on my own. Americans are made up of a lot more diverse groups than has been taught for generations. Why should only the majority class be discussed; oftentimes in glowing, false information? Truth is just to share information without litigating the events. If it wasn't true, there would not be a reason to have these bills. The proponents have no basis for this except to hide the truth and keep a falsehood in power.

As a very knowledgeable person and a vested interest in what my grandson is taught, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB 322 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed. You may reach me at [cecemb@gmail.com](mailto:cecemb@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecelia Benford