

**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322
Cori Yaeger, PhD, Ohio Psychologist
State and Local Government Committee
September 21, 2021**

To: 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 Dr. Cori Yaeger. I am a recently retired psychologist and I strongly oppose HB 322.

As a psychologist who has had the opportunity to work with school children/teens, and families, including LGBTQ+ individuals, I oppose this bill because it encourages narrow, singular viewpoints that perpetuate racist, discriminatory and exclusionary abuse, trauma, behavior and narratives. It would also undermine the learning environment by restricting the exploration of ideas, teaching methods, curriculum, and lesson plans.

I believe that it is important to teach critical thinking skills to children, as early as possible. Giving them the opportunity to weigh the pros and cons of various issues helps to prepare them to make good choices in their lives as adults.

The last several years of my active practice was dedicated to working with gender-variant individuals, including individuals who identify as transgender, intersex, bisexual, gay, and non-binary. I heard stories of school bullying and rejection by peers and teachers. The marginalization of these individuals will have lasting negative effects on them.

Students should be encouraged to develop empathy, compassion and understanding of the inherent differences in each individual. Discrimination and bigotry are fueled by ignorance and students should be educated to accept and honor the differences in others.

As a retired Ohio psychologist, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HV 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 iroc1949@icloud.com or 513-706-9323.

Respectfully submitted,
Cori Yaeger, PhD
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