

I strongly urge you to vote against these harmful bills. I write to you, not only as the product of a high quality public school education, but as the parent of school age children. Until recent times, our country has prized education, particularly free and equitable public education. In fact, it has been one of the cornerstones of our democracy. An educated electorate is able to consider historical, as well as current events. An educated electorate is able to learn from perspectives outside of one's own lived experience, and to engage in informed debate.

I came to understand the importance of civic involvement and began to understand experiences different from my own thanks to a talented teacher at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati. Mr. Yoshimura's presentations on his and numerous other family's well-documented experiences in the Japanese Internment camps during World War 2 would be directly in violation of House Bills 322 and 327. Without his direct and challenging lessons, I would have developed a very different and more limited understanding of modern US history. It is imperative that all children are given the opportunity to learn from a wide range of sources and experiences, that they may discuss, interpret and make our future brighter than our past.

The goal of these bills is to stifle discourse, discourage learning outside of one's lived experience and to punish free thought. Not only are these bills short-sighted, they are contrary to the American spirit.

Sincerely,

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