

Opponent Testimony on HB 322
Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Erin Staebler I am a 7th grade social studies teacher with a Master's degree from The Ohio State University in middle childhood education with more than 15 years as an educator. I strongly oppose HB 322.

As a 7th grade social studies teacher with a Master's degree in education and more than 15 years teaching experience in New Albany middle school.

I strongly oppose HB 322, for it keeps teachers from teaching the truth, and it keeps Ohio students from learning the truth about our past and present. In my experience, students already are not aware of much history of other people with different identities of white, Christian, cisgender, heterosexual males. Our current curriculum already teaches mostly Euro-centric standards.

This bill would hurt democracy in that it limits understanding of American institutions, systems, policies, and power dynamics. It discourages our young citizens from becoming civically engaged.

From a student perspective, it distorts patriotism by denying the need to fight for equal and equitable rights for all people. This bill prevents pathways to historical, social, and intellectual reckonings, reconciliations, growth, and healing. Furthermore, It encourages narrow, singular viewpoints that perpetuate racist, discriminatory and exclusionary abuse, trauma, behavior, and narratives. It prevents student discussion, debate, and analysis of controversial topics in which students often have a keen interest. It discourages student voice, student agency and advocacy for others.

We as Ohioans are better than this. Our children deserve more, and so does our state!

I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed. If there would have been more time ahead of the opposition testimony, I would have attended in person to oppose this harmful bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin A. Staebler