

Chairman/woman Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee

Good afternoon, thank you in advance for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony in oppositions of bills of 322 and 327. I am Gregory Soper and my words in no way represent those of The Canton City School District, The Canton Professional Educators Association, or The Ohio Education Association. Any attempt to think otherwise is just simply foolish.

These bills will eliminate the teaching of Critical Race Theory. In fact, from here on it will be known by the following title "Turn Out The base 22". This is true because Josh Mandel who was at the state board meeting rallying against CRT. Which is strange because he never mentioned CRT in 2012 when he was losing to Sherrod Brown. He did not mention this in 2016(neither did Renacci). When I ask Mr. Mandel why, he refuses to respond. In fact, none of you brought it up during the last election cycle. Amazing this never got brought up during the Common Core debates or the adoption of Ohio's New Learning Standards in 2018.

This bill is something that should be left on cable news and not be used to find something for the legislature to do. It is obvious the legislature just copied and pasted the law from other states and Tucker Carlson. They have yet to demonstrate the need for this takeover of education.

CRT is nowhere in the state standards that this same legislature adopted after its objection to Common Core (which I objected to as well). They have yet to provide a single instance where CRT has been taught. If they have evidence of this the writers of this bill would have leaked to every online and news source to drum up opposition. Yet, no one has heard anything on it.

In my 23 years, I have only taught what is on the standards and what is directly to the state tests. We do not have the time to teach when our job performance is directly tied to student performance. My district has never had a professional development on using CRT. We have had PD on how we can raise achievement for ALL students.

For once please explain what CRT looks like? Are you thinking that teaching of the Reconstruction Amendments will be outlawed? The Civil Rights Act? The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment? Please provide people specific examples of what you are thinking (none of you will because none of you know what it is). Since none of you are providing specific examples, allow me to help you along. Attached is a photograph of a quilt my classes did in February 2020(long before CRT ever was mentioned).





For the record, please answer this question. Is this quilt considered CRT? If any of you refuse to answer here is a follow up question. Why are you not answering it?

There will be sanctions for teachers and districts who teach CRT. But they have yet to determine how it can be enforced. How will they determine who is teaching CRT? Will they plant listening devices in classrooms? How will due process be offered to those accused of teaching CRT? Will teachers be afforded the same luxury as the legislators in having their cases tried in their home jurisdiction or will we have to have our cases tried in Columbus?

While there are numerous questions regarding due process or the lack thereof, let me clear on one thing. This applies to anyone including my employers, members of this panel, ODE. If I or am accused of teaching CRT one better have indisputable evidence of me doing so. Because if none is present a simple apology will not suffice. I will slap a lawsuit on them so big their great grandchildren will be paying it off. Yes, anyone who votes yes on this will be subject because you gave people them tools to disparage my character. Yes, you are liable because you know what could happen.

While this sounds ruthless you are opening a Pandoras Box. This is going to lead to unnecessary litigation and will cost taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Thank You for your time- I look forward in reading your responses.

Gregory Soper