

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322
Jeffrey Blumenthal, retired business owner
State and Local Government Committee
September 20, 2021

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

I am Jeffrey Blumenthal, retired business owner and lifelong Cleveland area resident.
I strongly oppose HB 322.

I oppose this bill because it removes ability of school districts and families to interpret and apply educational standards and encourages narrow viewpoints that perpetuate racism and discriminatory narratives. As a former business owner in Ohio, I oppose this bill because I fear our Ohio workforce will lack critical thinking because this bill would prevent students from gaining through education, the skills to work through difficult and complex ideas.

By taking the rights of school districts and families away, this bill imposes a singular State viewpoint over teaching sensitive issues. In so doing, this bill deprives communities of Local Control over their kids' education. I am appalled that this bill is even up for discussion. Where will Ohio businesses find great talent? This bill restricts young people's abilities to practice and obtain the skills necessary for job readiness and productive teamwork. This means that competitive talent will be driven away from Ohio at a time when our state desperately needs more great talent here. The thought that our legislators are considering preventing opportunities for Ohio's children to reckon with historical, social, and intellectual issues our country and our world need.

I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB 322 and vote NO on this bill. I also ask you to vote NO on HB 327. I have submitted a separate letter stating my opposition to that bill as well.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Blumenthal