

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 9/20/2021

Name: Lis Regula

Are you representing: **Yourself X** Organization

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: Lecturer, University of Dayton

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? **Yes X** No

## Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 322 and HB 327

Specific Issue: Keeping Honesty in Education

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  **Opponent X** Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person  **Written-Only X**

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  **No X**

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

As a lecturer at a private university, I support my fellow educators across the state. I oppose HB 322, HB 327, and HB Sub 327 on the grounds that they attack both, academic freedom and critical thinking in the State. On the surface, these bills may appear to be good, honest bills as they appear to ban the teaching of discrimination and discriminatory practices. However, these bills would ban the concept of Critical Race Theory and related ideas in the classroom. Critical Race Theory (CRT) is not a political idea, but instead a practice of investigating the role of race and racism in the legal and other systems of our

society. CRT analyzes the differences in penalties assigned for possession and distribution of crack and powder cocaine, as one example.

As a parent, I can appreciate the desire to protect our children from trauma, and these bills do touch on the idea that children should not be taught to be ashamed of who they are. We should all support children expressing themselves confidently and being secure in their authentic selves. The Ohio General Assembly's consideration of this legislation, and their attempt to ban children from playing sports due to being transgender (HB 61), is an affront to their pledges to protecting Ohio's children and promoting public education.. These bills are not to protect children, but to protect a system that devalues some identities at the expense of others.

Schools are meant to be places of growth and development, and that growth is uncomfortable as it requires us to leave our comfort zone. As professionals, educators have gone through extensive training to help guide our children through that growth and development process; and, we— the public— entrust them to do what is appropriate.. These restrictive bills curtail the rights of educators, while allowing legislators to dictate what trained professionals can and cannot do. In Ohio, and other states, this is becoming all too familiar where legislators distrust the subject matter experts and data as a way to control outcomes or enact politically-expedient policies. As a trans white man, I often speak out about LGBTQ rights and assaults at the Statehouse. It's important to remember that all forms of bigotry have the same bio-essentialist concept of a "right" or "normal" type of body being good, and all others being bad. And, bigotry of one type props up other forms of bigotry. Until we speak unequivocally with one voice that all people are created equal and fix the systems that work against that belief, including our educational system, we will continue to be fighting for scraps from those in power. There is no danger of CRT harming impressionable children; in fact, the harm is using draconian policies to censure them from the truth of their history. If Governor DeWine truly wants to attract investment in Ohio, then he will encourage his party to put our children and our great state first, and veto these laws should they cross his desk.

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*