

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 9/20/2021

Name: J. Mark Stewart

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Citizen Advocates for Public Education

Position/Title: Member

Address: 884 Mendes Court

City: Columbus State: OH Zip: 43235

Best Contact Telephone: 614-313-2843 Email: stewart.mark.884@gmail.com

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

Business before the committee

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

Specific Issue: Academic freedom; teaching honest history;

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

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

(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? written testimony only; not able to attend

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

These two bills are a cynical, dishonest attempt to muzzle free speech and academic freedom in Ohio public schools. They are part of a national campaign orchestrated by ALEC and other dark money, radical right-wing organizations that seek to restrict honest, open, and accurate discussions about our nation's past. They constitute a pathetic salvo in the culture wars that Republicans use to distract voters from real issue of importance. The bills result from the manufactured issue of Critical Race Theory (CRT) allegedly being taught in Ohio public schools. CRT is not part of any curriculum in the state. The uproar over its supposed place in Ohio school curriculum is entirely fictitious. CRT is mostly addressed at the graduate school level, and it was developed to understand and combat institutionalized racism, which no person with even a modicum of awareness or intelligence can deny exists. HB 322 and 327 should die in committee and be buried without comment. Ohio's image as a hyper-partisan, backward state is already embarrassing enough. Don't make it worse by moving these bills forward.

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.