

Opponent Testimony on HB 322
Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
9/19/21

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Mike Halaiko. I am a retired Educator, with over 40 years of experience in teaching, coaching, and administrating in Ohio schools. I strongly oppose HB 322.

I oppose this bill because...

It threatens and intimidates educators with severe penalties without clear standards for violations. It removes the autonomy of school districts and families to interpret and apply educational standards.

It creates distrust and disharmony among educators, students, and families.

It distorts patriotism by denying the need to fight for equal and equitable rights for all people.

It violates the American ideal of challenging institutions, systems, and policies in order to improve them.

It views American history as so shameful we have to hide it, rather than learn from it.

Both bills were referred to the State and Local Government Committee for evaluation, instead of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, whose primary role is to scrutinize education-focused legislation. The Primary and Secondary Education Committee is primarily comprised of education experts and former practitioners versus the State and Local Government Committee with less than four.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

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