

Opposition Testimony to HB322
Mimi Karon

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John and Ranking Member Kelly, thank you for allowing me to share my testimony opposing HB322. I am a mother of two and an almost life long Ohioan. I am truly horrified that I am responding to a bill that will censor education for our children with regard to the United States' history and other topics.. How exactly do we teach real empathy if we cannot try to imagine life as an indigenous person and a settler, a slave, the civil rights movement or current events regarding racism. We cannot learn from the mistakes of history like genocide, war, and so forth if children, our future leaders, cannot learn from them.

I believe much of the divisiveness we are seeing now in our country comes from poor education. Yesterday's The New York Times Morning Edition discusses the damage that can occur from poor education with regard to the fact that our country is doing terribly with regard to other states in cases of Covid 19 (2 times that of Great Britain, 7 times more than Canada): "Almost one in four American adults still has not received a shot. The unvaccinated continue to be disproportionately people without a college degree and Republican voters."

Poor education is damaging our country. We see the divisiveness in our country by those that get their news from sources that are not reporting real news but are reliant on conspiracy theories. An insurrection, guns at rallies, the big lie, Jewish space lasers, that freedom means no responsibility or care for others. These lies have put us where we are in this country today. We need our schools to teach the truth, now more than ever to combat the fake news sources too many in our country trust.

HB322 is an embarrassment. If we want to work on divisiveness, focus on some laws like background checks, that will keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. I think gun violence is the divisiveness our legislature should be concerned about. Thank you.