

Opponent Testimony for Bill 327
Nina Brown, Miss, Individual
State and Local Government Committee
September 21, 2021
Prohibited Concepts in Education

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

My name is Nina Brown, a senior at Grandview Heights High School. I strongly oppose House Bill 322. All students deserve to learn a true history without some unpleasantries swept under the rug. This house bill threatens to take away important details in history that inspire students all over the country to make change in their communities. It is through learning authentically about the systemic issues that still impact the country where so many students are able to take a close look and realize that we will always have work to do. This is not anti-American, we simply want our teachers to be educating us on the full story so we can learn different perspectives and create our own approaches and beliefs. These bills are not only twisting the honesty of history, but also projecting harmful views on gender. “Divisive” is a dangerous word, and I feel as though a teacher respecting a student’s pronouns is anything but that.

Students of all ethnicities, races, and gender identities deserve better, and so do all teachers who devote their time to keeping us up to date on current events and topics that everyone should care about. Teachers are experts in coming up with age-appropriate material no matter the subject, so why should they not be trusted in this? Ohio’s future generations are at stake. With all the social injustice occurring in recent years, it’s time to make advancements, not setbacks. I’ve had the honor to help formulate some of our antiracism materials for our school district’s goals, and I do not want those opportunities to go away. Students should be able to express themselves and take initiative, whether that be on spreading awareness on social injustice or crafting new solutions for a changing world.

As a student, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing **HB 322** and say NO to this bill. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Brown

Miss