

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying: Date: September 3, 2021

Name: Rachel Belenker

Are you representing: Yourself Organization Organization (If Applicable): Position/Title: Myself

Address: City: State: Zip: 2588 Marblevista Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43204 (614) 499-3858 RBelenker@gmail.com

Best Contact Telephone: Email: Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes

No Business before the committee Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number):

Specific Issue:

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

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes

(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.)

Will your testimony be written, spoken, or both? **Spoken**

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented

I am testifying in opposition to HB 322. HB 322 prohibits the truthful teaching and discussion of painful and difficult subject areas, and blindfolds our students to the truth. Rather than being divisive and harmful, truthful teaching enables students to understand our history and the struggles and challenges many people have endured. Issues such as the Holocaust, civil rights struggles, and Jim Crow laws are not opinion based, and should not be taught in a "two sides to each story manner." Men hanging from trees as "strange fruit," the necessity of a Green Book so African American would know which hotels would allow them to lodge overnight, and the gassing of millions of people in the Holocaust, are not subjects that should be shielded away from or taught in a sugarcoated and watered down method. HB 322 does a grave disservice to our future leaders and leaves them ill equipped to understand and appreciate hatred in our society and how to prevent future atrocities. The Holocaust Memorial outside the Ohio Statehouse is not a "two sided," and ambiguous Memorial. It is testament to evil, and hatred and must be taught explicitly and truthfully. My great aunt who were killed in the Holocaust did not die in order for our society to "understand both sides." The thousands of baby shoes at the US Holocaust Museum do not represent "two sides to a story." Please respect history and allow the truthful and accurate teaching of history. That is the definition of an educated society.