

Testimony on HB 322 & 327  
House State & Local Government Committee  
September 22, 2021

Submitted by Sandra Fiehrer

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 322 & HB 327.

I am a concerned Mom and community volunteer in Ohio 86. I'm writing this testimony because you are considering more bills chasing problems that don't exist. These 2 bills are driven by fear and lies. They appear to be part of a coordinated effort by legislative lobbyists like ALEC and Heritage Foundation who are leading efforts to defund public education and privatize K-12. At least 7 states have already banned concepts and discussions about racism and sexism in the U.S., as well as discussions about conscious and unconscious bias, privilege, discrimination, and oppression. This appears to be more of the same. I am not here for it.

A few weeks ago, I met with my state representative, Tracy Richardson, to discuss disinformation on both Covid and CRT. She is a co-sponsor of this bill and was not able to point to a single instance of CRT in an Ohio K-12 school, because it doesn't exist. Let me be clear, she represents the Ohio GOP line, not us or anyone we know. I've been canvassing for our school board elections in Dublin and most voters are not aware of this legislative agenda. The voters who are aware, oppose it so vigorously, that they ask me if the candidates I support are "anti-CRT" and are thrilled to find out they are not. We are NOT with you on this divisive effort to sow mistrust in public schools. My husband and I are proud graduates of public schools in OH (Columbus) and PA and our children are graduates of public schools they attended K-12. We chose to live here because the school district was highly rated. Last weekend, parents of my daughter's friend were inducted into the Dublin Jerome High School Hall of Fame for leading the community by developing an inclusive culture at the school when it opened. We are thankful for their efforts.

Our legislature shouldn't be injecting their partisan beliefs into the classroom. Students thrive when they develop critical thinking skills. These skills are essential to be successful in the world. We all want our kids to have an honest education. An education that's accurate about who we are, has integrity in how we treat others, and courage to do what's right regardless of our color, background, or zip code. HB 322 & HB 327 are worded vaguely on purpose to seem like they are banning things that would never take place in our schools, but they stoke fear and will prevent Ohio students from receiving an accurate education. These bills would also impede efforts to advance equity and inclusion within public schools.

I saw the tweets from Chris Rufo that started this nonsense <sup>1</sup> There was an intentional effort to make the term CRT toxic and tie it to anything that stoked anger. You bought it. The lobbyists bought it because it's divisive. These bills are what's divisive, not honest discussions about our nation's past. They are a reaction to the nationwide calls to address systemic racism in our country. And you'd rather create more systemic divides than actually address the real issue. I am disgusted and I will vote for candidates all the way up the ballot who understand that we need to solve real issues, instead of codifying dangerous nonsense.

I ask you to consider my testimony and the others like mine and voter no on HB 322 & HB 327.



**Christopher F. Rufo** ✕✕

@realchrisrufo



Replying to [@realchrisrufo](#) and [@ConceptualJames](#)

The goal is to have the public read something crazy in the newspaper and immediately think "critical race theory." We have decodified the term and will recodify it to annex the entire range of cultural constructions that are unpopular with Americans.

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