

Testimony on HB322 and HB327
State and Local Government Committee
Chairman Wiggam,
Vice Chair John,
Ranking Member Kelly
Members of the House State and Local Government Committee.

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Shela Blanchard a resident of Franklin County. I am number seven (7) of ten (10) siblings, an aunt to over 10 and great auntie to more than 40 attending Ohio public schools from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes. My babies, our Children deserve honesty in education. I am strongly opposed to House bills HB 322 and HB 327, which would prevent Ohio students, from receiving an honest, accurate education which they deserve and as a tax paying resident of Ohio, my tax dollars support.

These bills will cheat students from across Ohio, my great nieces and nephews out of a quality-education which they deserve and need to thrive and prepare for the world outside of the protection of our nest.

HB322 and HB327 promote incomplete, inadequate reductive education that shuns intellectual curiosity. These bills assume our students cannot handle complex and at times conflicting ideas. Educators and parents know their children can handle open truth with open and honest conversation. Hidden truth cheats them from a full quality education and ultimately frustrates them for our legislatures to make a biased decision on their lack of their ability to handle it.

These bills border the fine line of Jim Crow laws- an effort to keep black, and brown people from an education. Knowledge is freedom and education is key to economic success. In an effort to hide truth to hinder some, you cripple all.

Our children, our future, will make decisions based on history to repeat, by shunning intellectual curiosity or move forward to correct and expand open and honest dialogue. Truth must and will ultimately be revealed. These bills leave our students, communities and Ohio ill equipped to thrive in a global connected 21st century world. How could you ever agree to that? These babies, our children, your children will grow up and sit where you are sitting right now. It is our duty as parents, educators and yours as legislators to prepare them not cripple them for the future.

These bills are a bad choice for Ohioans.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote **NO** on these harmful, divisive bills. These bills are divisive and benefit no one.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Shela Blanchard
Columbus, Ohio