

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 9/21/2021

Name: Tamar Gray

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Cleveland Heights Teachers Union

Position/Title: Music Teacher / 2nd Vice President of Local 795

Address: 3905 Glenwood Road

City: Cleveland Hts State: Ohio Zip: 44121

Best Contact Telephone: 216-258-4120 Email: lgraybass@roadrunner.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): 322 and 327

Specific Issue: Silencing the honest teaching to all students

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(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.)

How much time will your testimony require? It is a written statement less than 3 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Teaching the truth is not wrong or radical. Our students deserve an honest education.

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*

**Honesty in Education is Needed**  
**Tamar Gray (Cleveland Heights)**

My name is Tamar Gr. I am a music teacher. I live and teach in Cleveland Hts.

The time has come for me to speak up and speak out about the needs of our students. All students deserve an honest education that speaks truth to who they are, not only as students but as American citizens.

This fight is not new, and yes, this is personal because I am a woman of color. My ancestral history was rewritten to make it palatable to the masses. I did not know the truth about who I was until late in life. There was so much to learn.

When we look back honestly in history we not only see the truth, but we need to speak the truth, and not be silenced.

**Truth is the word of the day.** Our students deserve the truth. All of our students! We cannot hide our heads in the sand and act as if everything has been perfect. The truth is...It has not! Why are there people who are afraid to face it?

The misinformation that is being spread would be laughable if it weren't so dangerous. Dangerous because people believe the lies.

What I see are not the **students** who are fearful because they can deal with truth and honesty. It is what we instill in our students every day appropriately at every level. This is how they learn to respect each other's heritage and culture.

But instead, the adults who are fearful something will be taken away. Equity and Inclusion build up our democracy. While trying to instill fear tears us down. We need to build bridges, not walls. Have we learned nothing from our history?

The truth will always prevail, and good people will not allow those who want to stay in the dark to have the last say.

I am grateful to live and work in a community that values diversity, equity, inclusion, and honesty in the classroom.

House bills 322 and 327 should not and cannot be tolerated or passed.

Thank you.

Tamar Gray  
Music Teacher  
Cleveland Heights  
Local 795