

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

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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

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.)

Will your testimony be written, spoken, or both? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

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Opponent Testimony on HB 322 and HB 327
Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
September 21st, 2021

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Winston C. Thompson. I am an Associate Professor of Educational Studies, Associate Professor of Philosophy (by courtesy), and member of the Steering Committee of the Center for Ethics and Human Values at The Ohio State University. Additionally, I am a resident of Columbus, and Ohio voter, and an actively engaged member of my community. I strongly oppose both HB 322 / 327]. More than this, I am a parent within Columbus City Schools.

As a published expert on matters of educational justice (I was formerly a Fellow-in-Residence at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University) I oppose these bills because they mischaracterize the matters they intend to address and their passage would create a context within which complicated truths of our historical and contemporary circumstances might be obscured. As a community, our highest educational obligation is to prepare students to deal with the challenges of the social and political context. Sometimes this requires that we deal with unpleasant and inconvenient truths. To censor matters of race and sex on the grounds of potential divisiveness is pedagogically wrong-headed and immoral.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Winston C. Thompson