

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: September 22, 2021

Name: Yi-Ting Wang

Are you representing: Myself

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title: A concerned parent

Address: 101 Wonderhill Drive

City: Athens State: Ohio

Best Contact Telephone: 740-591-7441

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 322

Specific Issue: Support our public school teachers

Are you testifying as a: 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? Both

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I am against HB 322 as it does not support students' social-emotional learning, decreases student competitiveness in national and international public policy student contests, and does not help affirm important values essential to a democratic society.

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.

September 21, 2021

The Honorable Scott Wiggam, Chairman, Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
Re: Opponent Testimony of HB322

Dear Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Yi-Ting Wang. I am a parent and educator from Athens, Ohio, and a voter in OH-15. My family and I strongly oppose HB 322, because it is premised on a hostile view of our teachers' work, and will have unintended consequences that will hurt our state in the long run. The bill makes it difficult for our teachers to support our students' social-emotional learning. It also deprives Ohio students of equitable opportunities to learn to be involved citizens. Public school students cannot participate in national or international public policy competitions if teachers cannot support students' advocacy projects. Furthermore, the bill does not help affirm to our students the important values essential to a democratic society.

While the language of HB 322 appears neutral and enticing, the addition of Sec. 3313.6027 suggests a view that our teachers' current classroom practice need to be regulated. According to Ohio Department of Education's 2020 Educator Conduct Report, there were only 8 complaints of educators "hosting, posting, or distributing inappropriate content" and 44 cases of "inappropriate comments/gestures" in school year 2020. We need to distinguish between isolated incidents and the general trend to support and show trust in our teachers. The statistics demonstrated that, except in rare cases, teachers in Ohio have done an excellent job managing their classrooms and serving students. It is unnecessary to regulate teachers' and counselors' speech about current events, particularly when students need emotional support at school when terrible events happen in the country.

Meanwhile, public policy advocacy needs to be taught at public schools to ensure that students have equitable access to learn to be contributing citizens. Keeping advocacy and action projects away from our classrooms will also make Ohio students less supported and competitive in various national student civic and policy contests. Over time, the lack of support and encouragement for our students to take an interest in policy and current events at K-12 school from a young age may result in the loss of talent in the governance of our state.

There are many important debates in our country about its present and its past. Our students need teachers' support to exchange ideas in the classrooms to become critical and independent thinkers. Teachers also need to be able to teach important values that the Holocaust must not be repeated so as to uphold our ideal of a democratic society. I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Yi-Ting Wang