
Opponent Testimony for House Bill 327
Amanda K. Haggerty
State and Local Government Committee
21 September 2021

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Representative Kelly, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Amanda K. Haggerty. I am an editor in educational publishing. I am an ally of OPAWL, a statewide grassroots community of Asian and Asian American and Pacific Islander Women and non-binary people in Ohio. Our organization is a multi-ethnic, multi-generational community and we represent the diverse diaspora from Asia and the Pacific Islands. I strongly oppose HB 327.

As an editor in educational publishing I oppose this bill because students deserve to learn accurate and complete American history, which includes but is not limited to Asian American and Pacific Islander American/AAPI history. Additionally, racism experienced by AAPI's is inextricably tied to American history and cannot be ignored or erased. Our children deserve to learn about what factors led to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and U.S. involvement in important historical events like the Secret War in Laos, which became the most heavily bombed country in world history.

If this bill passes, a censored and skewed version of history and current events that highlights a select few will be taught in the classroom, completely ignoring and erasing the history of Indigenous, Black, Brown, Asian, Pacific Islander, other communities of color, and the LGBTQIA+ communities. The bills are so vaguely worded in terms of defining what is and is not allowed to be taught in the classroom. The chilling effect of this purposefully vague language is that our teachers will be fearful of approaching topics that are challenging but factual. It is imperative, now more than ever, for our children to learn about these events as they are important parts of our country's foundational history.

This bill undermines the learning environment by restricting the exploration of ideas, teaching methods, curriculum, and lesson plans. It restricts essential professional development and training, which in turn, restricts teachers' abilities to connect deeply with their students.

As an editor in educational publishing and an ally of the growing AAPI Ohio population, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB 322 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda K. Haggerty

Associate Academic Designer