

To Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee- Below is my testimony for HB 322 & 327 combined. My name is Ann Money Penny and I am testifying in opposition to both of these house bills.

Both bills 322 and 327 are political theater, using Ohio's education system to divide our communities by stroking fire with buzz words that motivate those on the political right. Educators, not politicians should be forming our curriculum. All students regardless of color should learn our history, it's high and low points and discuss how this history still affects our injustices today. Lawmakers introducing these bills are attempting to limit teachers and students from resources on justice and are stroking fear needlessly onto parents. Our children must have honest and open discussions lead by qualified educators, teaching without fear of political reprisal.

We need our children to be educated based on principals of honesty and these bills are built on LIES. Politicians are turning our classrooms into battlegrounds for their own careers. I reject this division and want teachers and educators to decide what to teach and how to teach it.

I strongly urge these committees to kill these bills and focus on what our elected officials should be doing.

If you are truly concerned about public education in this state how about a deep dive into the inequality of School Funding in this state.