

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: September 21, 2021

Name: Carol Canavan

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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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): HB 327

Specific Issue: Restricting teacher's ability to teach honestly about history.

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? Written

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

As a long-time educator I object to efforts to control and restrict the teaching of our history - whitewashing the true events. This bill does not give students credit for being able to read and discuss intelligently our history and work toward reconciliation among our very diverse population.

*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.*

**Witness Statement for HB 327 from Carol Canavan, North Canton, OH**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in opposition to HB 327. I have taken some of my statements below from the Honesty for Ohio Education because I believe they represent my thinking in the matter of this bill you are considering at this time.

I have worked as a teacher of grades 7-12 in schools in Kentucky and in Ohio. I finished my career in Higher Education as an instructor and an administrator. In all arenas of my career in education I have been privileged to observe students grappling with difficult subjects. They have expected to be listened to and have benefitted from the challenge of learning factual material that provided new insights and opportunity to discuss.

With regard to our history as a nation and a state, we have had the opportunity to correct the record and help students understand the sad parts of our history as well as those episodes for which we can be most proud. "Efforts to dismiss racism and discrimination, or minimize its trauma and impact, harms individuals and communities, and prevents pathways to reconciliation and healing." What our nation and state need now more than ever is healing! We need to focus on love, not hate.

In my career I experienced many times when the community as a whole came together to create better curricula and educational experiences for the students. This coming together is what we must strive for, rather than further dividing; pitting families, teachers and legislative officials against each other.

Finally, students at every level benefit from seeing themselves in the narrative. The diversity of this great state and nation must be celebrated in order for our young people to thrive and build a better future for themselves and our world. They need honesty in education, not further efforts to restrict what they can learn and discuss about our history and society. Only by understanding what has gone on in our past can we build a path to a better tomorrow. Ohio needs ALL of its children to be well educated and able to analyze what has come before and astute enough to recognize missteps in building our future in time to avoid those missteps.

I urge you to drop this bill from consideration!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Canavan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.