

**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 327
Cori Yaeger, PhD, Ohio Psychologist
State and Local Government Committee
September 20, 2021**

To: 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 Dr. Cori Yaeger. I am a recently retired psychologist and I strongly oppose HB 327.

As a psychologist, I have had the opportunity to work with teachers, families, and school children/teens who have been energized by the exploration of various and sometimes conflicting narratives concerning history, sociology and current events.

Rather than seeing these different perspectives as divisive, I believe having a wealth of information about various subjects as a tool for students to develop critical thinking skills that will assist them in making good choices once they are adults. It also engenders empathy and compassion when learning to accept the inherent differences in individuals and viewpoints.

I oppose this bill because it devalues students by assuming they cannot handle complex and sometimes conflicting ideas. It violates the American ideal of challenging institutions, systems, and policies in order to improve them. And it undermines the learning environment by restricting the exploration of ideas, teaching methods, curriculum, and lesson plans.

I believe that it is important to teach critical thinking skills to children, as early as possible. Giving them the opportunity to weigh the pros and cons of various issues helps to prepare them to make good choices in their lives as adults.

Students need to know the real history of our country (and other colonializing and imperialist countries) to evaluate whether the doctrine of Manifest Destiny has really resulted in equal treatment of all – especially to think about whether “ends justify means.” It is important for students to learn about the dangers of power and influence when they have worked (and continue to work) to advantage a small minority of individuals, while leaving much of the rest of persons struggling

to make ends meet in a society where safe and adequate housing, education, and health care are not available to all citizens.

As a retired Ohio psychologist, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HV 327 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed. You may reach me at iroc1949@icloud.com or 513-706-9323.

Respectfully submitted,
Cori Yaeger, PhD
Psychologist (retired)
Lebanon, Ohio 45036