



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

My name is Rev. Donald Perryman. I am the President for the United Pastors for Social Empowerment (UPSE). UPSE is a coalition of pastors who work with institutions and community members in the Toledo, Ohio area to address issues that disproportionately affect poor and marginalized communities. UPSE works to challenge structural barriers to equality through public policy advocacy, community development, and coalition-building. Community justice and Equal access to quality education is a large area of concern and a big part of our advocacy work.

I am writing on behalf of the United Pastors for Social Empowerment (UPSE) to strongly oppose HB 322 and HB 327. The bills penalize speech, in direct contravention of our United States Constitution.

These bills would obstruct and suppress open, courageous educational and training environments. All people in our great state deserve honest and comprehensive education and training opportunities which invite debate, discussion, and engagement with the marketplace of ideas.

UPSE is committed to racial justice, community education, and alleviating the negative impact that laws and policies, past and present, continue have on our fellow members of minority race, ethnic background, creed, sex, and national origin. Systemic racism was and is real. Restricting open and honest inquiry, study and discussion of ideas will only leave our citizens without the tools to engage with information and improve the future for all.

As UPSE's work to recognize and celebrate the importance of all people and cultures would be hindered by these bills, we urge you to vote against HB 322 and 327.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony opposing HB 322 and HB 327.