

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: _____

Name: _____

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): _____

Specific Issue: _____

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? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

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.

Opponent Testimony on HB 322 and HB 327
Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
September 20, 2021

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Francis Troyan. I am a professor of education at Ohio State, former K-12 classroom teacher, and Ohio voter from Columbus. I strongly oppose HB 322 and HB 327.

As an Ohio educator, I oppose this bill because of its impacts on students, families, and communities. These bills will prohibit collaboration and create disharmony among families, educators and school districts entrusted to shape the educational environment. Public policies such as these bills ignore the wounds families experience when outdated and damaging content remains unchallenged. From my experience working collaboratively to create inclusive schools in partnership with parents, teachers, students, and administrators, I know the value of open dialogue, on-going discussion, and trust in communication that is the foundation of healthy school communities. These bills will forever damage that trust that is the cornerstone of effective school communities.

Schools and classrooms are spaces where we teach student to think critically, to analyze situations, and respect alternative viewpoints. This proposed legislation undermines the learning environment by restricting the exploration of ideas, teaching methods, curriculum, and lesson plans. In the long term, in addition to creating more divisiveness in Ohio communities, this legislation will negatively impact the state. Because of the ways in which it limits dialogue, it has the potential to hinder the continuing development of strong Ohio workforce development by driving competitive talent away from Ohio, including our future teachers.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francis J. Troyan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "F".

Francis Troyan