

IN OPPOSITION to any bill that aims to outlaw teaching certain concepts around race and certain current events and “divisive concepts.”

Decisions on what kind of education we want our children to get should be made by parents. Whether we teach our children racist history or that history has been racist should be determined at the community level, not on the state level. I don't share values with people in other parts of the state of Ohio. That doesn't mean they need to adopt mine. And I shouldn't be required to adopt theirs.

In a recent Brookings article, Rashawn Ray writes that critical race theory has “become a new boogie man for people unwilling to acknowledge our country's racist history and how it impacts the present.” And it's that last part that these bills undermine. It's not just about being aware and talking about the past; it's understanding how it's affecting us today – and how it can impact the next.

People are afraid that acknowledging our country's racist history (and present) admonishes ALL white people for being oppressors and framing ALL Black people as victims. But people who see critical race theory that way haven't spent any time on understanding what it is – and have probably researched it the same way they've “researched” vaccines to defend why they won't get one.

Critical race theory is an honest conversation about the social institutions in the United States, including criminal justice, education, jobs, housing, financial markets, healthcare. It's accepting that they were developed with intrinsically racist rules and regulations that necessarily led to different outcomes for different types of people. Not based on who those people are, what they've accomplished, earn or have done. But the color of their skin and who their families are.

Making people aware of the systems that are holding back entire swaths of the population changes the way we think about problems and how we nurture our children to solve them. Without these essential truths about the world they're living in, they won't be able to stand out, excel and be the ones who turn this world into a better one. They'll just stick to the status quo and continue to plummet the U.S. rankings further and further.

Rest assured, if Ohio bans critical race theory and similar frameworks, the children will still learn the truth. The families who are honest about the world we live in – and the one it can become in our children's generation – will do exactly what's needed to ensure they don't repeat the mistakes of the past. And they will rise up again and again to defeat you. The people are opposed to teaching our children the truth about our country – you're a problem time will solve. We're prepared to give our children the tools they need to grow. If you believe that sheltering your children from reality is the right route, take it. For your community, for your schools. Leave my community alone. We'll see who succeeds in the end.

Make the right choice.

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