

**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 327**  
**State and Local Government Committee**  
**09/20/21**

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

Thank you for allowing us to testify today. We are Jared and Susan Cutler, leaders in the Citizens for a Better Beaver Creek Schools Action Group. We strongly oppose HB 327.

As leaders in a group committed to the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community, and as private Ohio citizens, we oppose this bill because while HB 327 places restrictions on how race can be discussed in Ohio schools, the sponsors and every single co-sponsor of this bill is white. The lack of outreach to minority groups in the development of this legislation is inexcusable, and amounts to white people unilaterally setting the terms for how race can be discussed with no regard for how non-white groups feel about it. This legislation is white supremacy in action.

The penalties that have been added to this legislation for schools where violations are reported are egregious, outrageous, and completely unreasonable. The penalties for having discussions about race in schools, colleges, and universities that are prohibited by this legislation far outweigh any consequence an educational institution would face for actual racist acts or hate speech that occurred there. After all, which school district should face more severe consequences – one that fails to properly address actual instances of racism and hate speech, or one that merely has conversations about race that a powerful group wants to suppress?

Legislation restricting discussion of ideas that groups in power don't like is undeniably un-American, and sets a very dangerous precedent. We don't understand why the sponsors and co-sponsors of this legislation feel empowered to prohibit discussion of ideas they deem "divisive". Is this still America?

Finally – this bill claims to prohibit "divisive" ideas, but what could possibly be more divisive than the disparities in societal outcomes between racial groups that

have been prevalent from the very founding of this country? Given that today, in 2021, many minority groups still on average have significantly lower income, less personal wealth, lower rates of home ownership, and higher rates of poverty relative to the white population on average, we would like to see more legislation that encourages learning about the causes of these disparities with the view of one day eliminating them, rather than legislation that discourages addressing them in our schools. Why does this bill show so much concern for the feelings of a historically powerful group, and so little regard for the actual disparities experienced by many historically underprivileged minority groups?

As a leaders of Citizens for a Better Beaver creek, we ask you to strongly consider our testimony opposing HB 327 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify. We would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed. You may reach us at [cutlerjared\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:cutlerjared_@hotmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Jared and Susan Cutler  
Citizens for a Better Beaver creek – Schools Action Group