

Opponent Testimony on HB 322 and HB 327
Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
9/21/21

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jessica Donovan. I am a Clinical Associate Professor in the Physical Therapy program at The Ohio State University. I strongly oppose both HB 322 and HB 327.

As a professor of physical therapy with 10 years' experience and a mother of 3 who are just starting their public school careers, I oppose this bill because it encourages narrow, singular viewpoints that perpetuate racist, discriminatory and exclusionary abuse, trauma, behavior and narratives; it removes the autonomy of school districts and families to interpret and apply educational standards; and it views American history as so shameful we have to hit it, rather than learn from it.

I was raised in a very narrow-minded household and was raised to believe that people of color, especially "poor" people of color, chose to be that way and were "less than" by their very nature. Their inability to "rise up" was from lack of effort, pure and simple. Additionally, I was raised to believe that I, as a white cis-gender female, had earned everything I had received in this world. Nevermind that I had received a top notch education from my white, affluent parents. Nevermind that I had committed a crime but let off with a warning because of my parents intervention and the color of my skin. It wasn't until I went away to school and started opening my world view via open-minded and diverse education that I realized the truth about our country and its roots in systemic racism. Because of that, I am now able to help serve and lift up those that have been systematically held down and, hopefully, teach my kids to do the same.

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,

Jess