

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 9-20-2021

Name: Judith B. Hofmann

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 945 Shepherd Drive

City: Fostoria State: OH Zip: 44830

Best Contact Telephone: 419-619-1425 Email: hofjnr@bright.net

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 327

Specific Issue: Prohibition of "Divisive Concepts"

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? written

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Opposed to dishonesty in education.

*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 for House Bill 327**

**Judith B. Hofmann**

**State and Local Government Committee**

**September 20, 2021**

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Judith Hofmann. I am a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and a concerned citizen. I strongly oppose HB 327.

As a person of faith and a citizen concerned about the future of education in Ohio, I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

As a member of a generation who was not exposed to true and accurate U.S. history while going through the education system, I find it shameful that sponsors and supporters of this bill endeavor to by-pass providing education that is grounded in honesty and facts. I resent the false stories and important omissions that were part of my educational curriculum years ago. As the truth continues to unfold, this movement to prohibit honesty in education in Ohio is extremely sad and a detriment to all of us. Do the proponents of this bill think American history is so shameful we have to hide it, rather than learn from it? Avoiding or hiding the truth is detrimental in the long-run whereas honesty in education provides the opportunity to develop lifelong learners and engaged citizens who are willing to address complex issues, seek collaborative solutions, and to foster a society that seeks the common good of all.

The dishonesty associated with this proposed bill reflects distrust of students to manage difficult and complex truths, distrust of families who want to heal, be included, and reconcile the realities of our nation, and distrust of educators who want to teach complete accounts of history and modern events. Furthermore, it creates distrust and disharmony among families, students, educators and communities.

As one who has suffered the effects of years of dishonest history education, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB 322 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith B. Hofmann