

Dear Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee,

I am a retired teacher with a Masters in Education from Stanford University. I have watched with dismay as education has lost its way! We went from “readin’, writin’, and ‘rithmetic to a “non-judgmental”, relativistic hodgepodge that produces unhappy young adults who too often lag in all the basics and have a sketchy at best understanding of the history of our great country, which has shed so much blood in defense of liberty (not freedom, I see a difference) and to which so many still desire to come! Witness the constant stream of illegal immigrants on our TV sets attesting to the fact that the rest of the world values America, and the riots of last summer where we witnessed so many university-bred students yelling at police, tearing down statues and more, based on a faulty notion that America is irredeemably corrupt. The vision surely jolted many into sitting up and realizing something must be done to rectify this situation. I am thankful the writers of this bill are part of this group.

One of the blessings of Covid is that parents were able to see what their kids were “learning” and it bore little resemblance to their childhood experience. The trust we placed in the hands of our teachers and other administrators was exposed as a faulty trust.

Here is your task as I see it, as representatives of those who elected you: Will you stand in support of the people who elected you who for the most part are asking that the corrupting influences of CRT be abandoned and that we return to the tried and true methodologies of our past? Or will you take the side of the “experts” who spend their days figuring out new projects that they hope to get funded so they can keep their professorial jobs, meanwhile turning out teachers who have been propagandized theories instead of taught how to teach kids to be responsible inquisitive learners for life? To say nothing of being moral, a term not to be used these days due to its connotation of religiosity. But, in fact we are a Judeo-Christian nation and our Constitution attests to this fact, and it is because of our search for truth that we have been as successful a country as we have been, in spite of our many faults.

I believe that any student who feels an imperative to tear down a statue of Pres. Lincoln is not someone who feasts at the table of lifelong learning rooted in truth. For this is the crux of the situation. The people who vote actually live in the real world and know that knowing the truth is paramount to any endeavor. A plane will not fly without the truth of engineering. It is people who dwell in the world of fantasy and “what ifs” that have taken over the ivory tower. No good will come of teaching teachers to teach children that there is an unachievable world of utopia waiting for them around the corner if only we tweak the human person. Doing so will only cause distress when they realize they have been lied to. I believe we are witnessing this today. I tried in my career to stem the tide but it takes more than a few good people, it takes the will of those people to be attended to by those whom they elect!

Let us as citizens of this state roll up our sleeves and reintroduce sanity into our schools. Let us stand boldly and aver that the principles upon which we were founded are still the best the world has ever offered. As Ohioans we are up to the task. I invite each of you take a stroll through the Ohio state house and read the beautiful words that hang on every wall—uplifting!

Thank you for reading this outpouring from my heart. I have been part of the university experience, I know what has gone on there. I have taught our children at the junior and high school level, and know how they and their parents trust us. I have had my own children in every kind of school imaginable, including special education, and I know how important a solid, fact-based education is.

Sincerely,
Michele Coldiron, MS (CUNY), MA (Stanford)