

Opposition to HB 327

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee- Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony for HB 327. My name is Susan Gilfert and I am testifying in opposition to HB 327.

As a retired educator, I believe in the ways that students learn important lessons through discussions about difficult issues: integrity, courage, empathy, etc. HB 327 stifles these discussions, academic freedom and freedom of speech for teachers and children by prohibiting school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and state agencies from teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts. How can a society call itself “educated” when divisive notions are not discussed and aired in the safety of a classroom?

Susan Gilfert

Retired university lecturer

Retired Red Cross volunteer

Current OhioHealth volunteer at O’Bleness Hospital

Active election official for Athens County