



Don Jones
State Representative

Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State & Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on HB 322 today.

The purpose of school is to educate students. Classrooms are not indoctrination centers, nor should they be.

HB 322 is simple- one cannot inculcate that:

- (1) One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;
- (2) An individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;
- (3) An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race;
- (4) Members of one race cannot or should not attempt to treat others without respect to race;
- (5) An individual's moral standing or worth is necessarily determined by the individual's race or sex;
- (6) An individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex;
- (7) An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of the individual's race or sex;
- (8) Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by members of a particular race or sex to oppress members of another race or sex;
- (9) Fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to a race or sex or to members of that race or sex because of their race or sex;
- (10) The advent of slavery in the territory that is now the United States constituted the true founding of the United States;
- (11) With respect to their relationship to American values, slavery and racism are anything other than deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to the authentic founding principles of the United States, which include liberty and equality.

These are not controversial. They are morally right. As Dr. King said, we should not be judged by the color of our skin, but the content of our character. Also in his "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. King said, "We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity." Simply, students should not anguish over, nor feel bad about who they are. And no child should be told that X race did Y and you're a member of X, therefore you are bad as well.



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Whether these points of indoctrination are referred to as divisive concepts, critical race theory, or whatever else may be out there, at the end of the day the name doesn't matter. Indoctrination is indoctrination. The goal of that indoctrination is to alter how our children view the United States. The goal is to train children to believe the United States is fundamentally racist, and by association our children are somehow inherently racist.

Going back to Martin Luther King, Jr., he also dispels this fiction and agrees that the United States is fundamentally good and the deviations were just that- deviations committed by bad actors as he says in his "I have a Dream" speech, "When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men - yes, black men as well as white men - would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Just because the bill prohibits inculcating that the United States and its citizens are inherently racist does not mean the unfortunate parts of our history cannot be taught. Nowhere in this bill does it say the atrocities of racism, slavery, and their effects on our nation and nation's laws cannot or should not be taught. In fact, they *need* to be taught. We all must learn of the horrible things that happened in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Jim Crow south, or 'redlining' that still affects housing loans today.

HB 322 also would ban the use of "action civics" where class credit is given for not just participating in our system of government, but actively advocating and lobbying for a specific position. Our children absolutely need to learn our government processes, but not because they are pushing an agenda from a teacher or school, or even potentially being dinged by a teacher for advocating for the "wrong position." Coursework should be about learning, not advocating and lobbying.

Again, the purpose of school is to educate students. School is not about pushing ideologies or telling students to think a certain way. Too often teachers are telling students what to think, and not teaching them how to think. HB 322 is about protecting the integrity of our education system and ensuring our students are learning real facts, and not being told to feel or think a certain way.

Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State & Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to present this vital bill to you and I look forward to your support and questions.