



Sarah Fowler Arthur
State Representative

Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State & Local Government Committee, I will be addressing my comments specifically to the substitute bill which we would ask the committee to adopt and keeping my comments brief to allow time for any questions you may have.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring HB 327 before you this morning, and thank you Representative Holmes for standing in and presenting Representative Grendell's testimony. I was honored to be invited to joint sponsor such timely and important legislation, which affirms the contributions of ALL Americans to our great nation and the refinement of the founding concepts of freedom: equality of all, just and equal treatment under the law, and the opportunity to follow your dreams.

"In Congress, July 4, 1776:

...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness..." From the very conception of our country, the Declaration of Independence outlined the then controversial ideas of individual responsibility, individual accountability, and equality under the law, which has since become the bedrock of our civilization.

While we have certainly grown in our understanding and practical application of these principles, the truth remains that we would not be the nation we are today without the belief, affirmed in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that: "it shall not be lawful...to discriminate against any individual...because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin..."

HB 327 further affirms and strengthens Ohio's non-discrimination policies and expectations for K-12 and higher education classroom instruction, teacher and principal training, and state and local government employee training. We've received concerning reports that individuals are being held to an ideological test to maintain their employment or receive a good grade in a given class. That ideological test is often based upon external characteristics rather than the foundational principles of our nation or the intrinsic value of an individual's character.

The promotion of concepts that hold our seven, eight, and nine year old children responsible for the crimes of past generations goes against everything our nation stands for. It is an unconscionable perversion that any child should be held personally responsible for the sins of their father, or a group of individuals in the past. We are a nation founded on individual responsibility, individual accountability, and individual accomplishment and failure.

HB 327 protects children's right to learn American History in an objective and historically accurate manner without taxpayer dollars being used to promote an ideology of racism and group guilt. It protects state and local government employees from being subjected to an ideological "purity test" to



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receive or maintain employment. It strives to ensure that every Ohioan is treated equally under the law and that every individual enjoys the rights and privileges of a non-discriminatory, objective representation of educational and historical facts.

I would be happy to answer any further questions you may have at this time.