

## H.B. 322 Witness Statement

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of H.B. 322. In today's school curriculums, Critical Race Theory (CRT) has become a political topic for a variety of reasons. I applaud the Ohio House for putting forth this bill to stop the actions by our schools to incorporate CRT, which if allowed to continue will divide our communities (and country) and harm our children and ultimately destroy our nation.

Our county is steep in history and has worked hard to eliminate racism and promote the opportunities of minorities. I have seen this through my 64 years of life. I have been part of many affirmative action efforts with great success. While these programs were not perfect, they have removed the widespread racism of the 50's and 60's with a more equal society. I really feel CRT will ultimately set us back years in our progress (counter to their claims – equity is not equality).

Why, because CRT's fundamentals are completely counter to our current culture and have the objective to destroy our country and our children. CRT teaches:

- Individuals are forever defined by race, not character. CRT expressly rejects notions of color blindness and the melting pot.
- America is systematically racist and all white are racists or at least implicitly biased.
- The Constitution and the American system of government were designed to perpetuate slavery and oppression.
- Equality of opportunity means nothing; only equality of results matters.
- Individuals are either oppressors or victims; there's nothing in between.
- America's true history is told by "The 1619 Project", which holds that America's real birth date was 1619 when the first slaves arrived, and that it is "out of slavery – and the anti-black racism it required" – that "nearly everything that has truly made America exceptional" grew.

CRT professes that Capitalism is evil. "In order to truly be antiracist, you also have to truly be anticapitalist", says Ibram X. Kendi – a leading CRT proponent. This is especially troubling as the United States has as its foundation Capitalism. We have gone to multiple wars to protect our Constitution and our form of government. What troubles me is the following three themes concerning CRT:

- It's taught as incontrovertible truth – there is no debate, CRT is to be followed with debate. In fact if you question CRT you are considered a racist.
- It's Marxist in its roots and a broad assault on most everything about classical liberalism – we as Americans have always thought of Marxism as counter democracy. In effect, continuing to allow CRT in our schools with threaten our democratic principles and way of life.
- There is little hope for rational debate with CRT supporters – CRT supporters are blind to what is being presented to them and fail to critically think about what is being presented. Often times, CRT defenders like Black Lives Matter – are vocal to those who oppose CRT.

In closing, thank you for this opportunity to provide my thoughts on this subject.