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## **PROPONENT TESTIMONY**

DATE: Monday, June 21, 2021

- TO: Members of the House State and Local Government Committee
- FROM: Diane Stover Program Director, Protect Ohio Children Coalition
- RE: Support for H.B. 327: Prohibit Teaching, Advocating, or Promoting Divisive Concepts

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, I appreciate the members of this committee hearing proponent testimony on House Bill 327, legislation declaring that Ohio Prohibit Teaching, Advocating, or Promoting Divisive Concepts.

My name is Diane Stover and I am the Program Director for the Protect Ohio Children Coalition and a national co-chair of the Protect Child Health Coalition. Our organization has been working for the last four years, to find evidence in Ohio schools that indoctrination is not a myth, but reality. Over the last year, we have seen a massive surge of Critical Race Theory training in K-12 schools as we have collected evidence from citizens, teachers, doctors, and business professionals who reside in local communities and are speaking out. In many cases, these citizens have taken their concerns to local school boards. We have posted local school board meetings on our Protect Ohio Children YouTube channel that have been viewed by tens of thousands of people. In the Beachwood, OH video it has had over 115k views.

We have collected <u>2,500 on-line petition signatures</u> declaring: "Presenting dangerous and radical indoctrination in classrooms about Critical Race Theory (CRT), Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE), and Social Emotional Learning (SEL), must stop NOW to protect Ohio's children."

Recently, we announced our new Protect Ohio Children Coalition <u>website LINK</u> that gives resources and training about Critical Race Theory and how to oppose indoctrination in schools. This website also has a google map of the 612 Ohio school districts and shows a site map of where we have found evidence of indoctrination. We have also provided citizens an email address to send anonymous tips. Our website currently has evidence and anonymous tips from <u>60 Ohio school districts</u>.

Currently, the most rampant Critical Race Theory information comes from NE Ohio as a result of the focus on training teachers from the State Board of Education's resolution in support of Critical Race Theory. Additionally, the NE Ohio Diversity Center is actively contracting with school districts for full-time (40-hour per week) high-paid "diversity consultants." Beachwood City Schools, Rocky River City Schools, Berea City Schools, (to name a few) have hired consultants from the NEO Diversity Center. (Reference our website and YouTube channel for more information.) Residents of these cities have been astonished at the lack of transparency and deception being used to hide elements of the training and not being given access to training materials (as provided in ORC 3313.60 section G).

It has also been brought to our attention that "diversity audits" are being done in some school districts. One in particular is in Bay Village where a resident actually discovered the <u>contract</u> between the school district and a third-party.

The findings of the Protect Ohio Children Coalition have uncovered a substantial amount of information but it has also resulted in a tremendous number of questions about what is going on in our Ohio school districts about curricula content, financial allocations for these programs, ideologies, and where the agenda is coming from. Parents and tax-payers are highly alarmed by the sudden infiltration into their schools that takes the focus off of education and into the realm of indoctrination.

In concluding, I urge you to pass HB 327 to protect children from the indoctrination of harmful ideology in our schools. Thank you for your attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Diane Stover Program Director, Protect Ohio Children

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