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PROPONENT TESTIMONY

DATE: Monday, June 21, 2021

TO: Members of the House State and Local Government Committee

FROM: John Stover - President, Ohio Value Voters

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 John Stover, President of Ohio Value Voters (OVV)and a board member of Protect Ohio Children (POC). Our organizations have been working for the last four years to find evidence that Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) and Critical Race Theory (CRT) indoctrination is occurring in Ohio schools. 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 who 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.

Throughout Ohio, school districts are teaching Critical Race Theory (CRT) which divides children into two classes, those which are born with "white privilege" verses those that are born non-white.

Recently, a Mad River teacher wrote the following:

"I am ashamed of my white privileged skin. Ashamed of my white brothers and sisters with their small minds killing my innocent brothers and sisters because of a color."

Scott Huddle, a Mad River school board member, challenged the notion of CRT and systemic racism. Due to his challenge, he was forced to resign as the President of the Ohio State Board Association (OSBA).

The OSBA on their website, provides third party firms to assist school districts with "Equity" which is a component of CRT (attachment).

Last year, the State Board of Education passed Resolution 20 (attachment), an Equity measure which further attempted to divide children in the state of Ohio and the classrooms. It should be noted, this resolution was not passed unanimously by all the members.

There are numerous articles which explain the harm to children by teaching CRT in the classroom. The following links are just a few which are provided:

https://thefederalist.com/2021/03/25/critical-race-theory-is-not-a-single-lesson-or-training-but-a-way-of-life/

 $\underline{\text{https://www.heritage.org/civil-rights/report/critical-race-theory-the-new-intolerance-and-its-grip-america}$

Five states have already passed legislation to address this issue of teaching CRT in the classroom. Another 17 states, including Ohio have introduced legislation.

In concluding, it is respectfully requested that the State and Local Government committee pass House Bill 327 and refer it to the House Floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

John Stover, President Ohio Value Voters 216.337.3061 (cell)