Opponent Testimony on HB 322 Ohio House State and Local Government Committee September 21, 2021

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Marc Guerrero. I am a faculty member at The Ohio State University and an Ohio voter from Columbus. I strongly oppose HB 322.

As an OSU associate professor I oppose this bill because these attacks concealed as bills are rooted in scare tactics and incorrect definitions about "critical race theory." The fact is these attacks are happening in school districts whether or not critical race theory is taught at all. Critical race theory is generally not covered in K-12 education, because it is an academic concept more suited to a higher education curriculum. I have taught an entire course on critical race theory, including engaging critiques of its tenets. This bill would not allow me to teach the course again, which allowed graduate students to understand multiple perspectives and come to their own conclusions. We need to be able to teach about these concepts.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Guerrero

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