

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 9-21-21

Name: Zara Smith

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): —

Position/Title: —

Address: 41165 Eckwoth Dr.

City: Bellbrook State: OH Zip: 45305

Best Contact Telephone: 513-435-5192 Email: makeadifferenceactnow@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 322 + HB 327

Specific Issue: —

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? na

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I am opposed to HB 322 + HB 327.

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*

My name is Zara Smith, and I am from Bellbrook, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to House bills HB 322 + HB 327, which would prevent Ohio students from receiving an honest, accurate education.

Denying the realities of systemic racism in our country's history does not change the fact that it exists, and continues to exist today.

According to a recently published OSU study, during the last year black students learned roughly 40% less than a normal year in 3rd grade English while their white counterparts learned 18% less than a normal year. In grades 5-8, English tests showing learning decreases were 2-3 times greater among black + Hispanic students, as well as economically disadvantaged students.

Instead of wasting time debating if or how racism should be discussed, we should all be working together to eliminate these racial disparities that cannot be denied.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote **NO** on this harmful bill.

Sincerely,

Zara Smith