

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee- Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony for HB 327. My name is Debra Spangler, I am a mother of two teenagers, and I am testifying in opposition to HB 327. School is a place for engaging in and being exposed to perspectives, opinions and experiences different from one's own. This bill strives to shut down all exposure to activities that might lead to complex thinking, which is critical to a person's development. Proponents of this bill are failing to see or are outright ignoring the racist and unjust structure of our education system. They are confusing discrimination with racism. This is not about individual discrimination but systemic racism. They are demanding that educators lie about how our country became what it is today. It is not possible to racially scapegoat a white person who has grown up in our society, benefiting from our current systems. The "system" that these lawmakers look to uphold is working as intended, by encouraging that we take a blind eye to examining the injustices that are woven into its foundation. It is ignorant to shut down critical thinking and gives no credit to our children or our educators for being capable of navigating our complex history. Our children understand that it is time for change, time to reexamine the systems. Let's support them by providing age-appropriate understanding of our history and our present, guiding them to think for themselves, act with integrity, and treat others who are different from themselves with dignity and compassion.

Thank you for your attention. Attached is my witness information form.

Debra Spangler

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