

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 327
Jamilie Jones
State and Local Government Committee
9/21/21

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Rep. Kelly, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee

My name is Jamille Jones. I am a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion practitioner, community organizer and activist, and proud mother to a little girl in the 2nd grader. I strongly oppose House Bill 322 and House Sub Bill 327 and would like to share a few of the reasons why:

- These bills hurt every Ohioan by prohibiting, censoring, and restricting the essential truths, critical perspectives, and in-depth analyses of America's past and present necessary for healing and growth.
- These bills cheat students, families, and educators of a quality-education and instead promote an incomplete, inadequate, reductive education that shuns intellectual curiosity and closes minds rather than expanding them.
- These bills leave students, communities, and Ohio ill-equipped to thrive in a dynamic, globally-connected, 21st Century world.
- These bills promote the political interests of a national censorship campaign, not the needs of teachers, students, and families.

Throughout the national debate over the “issues,” outline in these bills I’ve often heard “it’s the parent’s responsibility to teach these things. The classroom is for academics and academics only.” I’ve also heard that “it takes a village.” Is it ont also the villages responsibility to produce empathetic, informed citizens that can thrive in our diverse society? Our schools are part of that village and should be an environment for honest education. Our students deserve more. Our families expect more. Our teachers want to teach more. Our state needs more.

As a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion practitioner, activist, and mother I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing HB 322 OR HB 327 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamilie Jones