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Representative Mike Loychik
The Ohio House of Representatives

HB 616 – Rep. Mike Loychik, Sponsor Testimony, May 31st, 2022

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, and Ranking Member Kelly, and Members of the State and Local Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on HB 616.

Schools are letting out for the Summer and the number of work days before the next school year is few to none. Now is the time to act to ensure that these protections are in place before the next school year begins to ensure that our children are receiving fair, unbiased, and age appropriate education.

What does this legislation do? Very simply it ensures that divisive and inherently racist concepts are not taught in schools. It ensures that sexual orientation and gender ideology are not taught in kindergarten through third grade. Starting in fourth grade it must be age appropriate. Any parents who think that the school or teacher are in violation of this may file a complaint with the State Board to investigate. The school or teacher are provided a hearing to ensure that their side is heard and only a fair outcome is reached. We want a process which supports Parental rights but is not unjust on teachers.

This bill is designed to protect parental rights and protect children from indoctrination. When I send my child to kindergarten I want him to be learning his ABCs not the birds and the bees. I think a great many parents stand with me in wanting the same. We must put safeguards in place to ensure that our children are receiving a fair, unbiased, and age appropriate education.

Thank you once again for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony. I would also like to thank my joint sponsor Representative Schmidt, who I will now hand it over to.