

**Opponent Testimony for HB 103
[Primary and Secondary Education]
May 16, 2023**

**Arianna Kelawala
OPAWL, Organizer**

Chairman Bird, Representative Jones, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Arianna Kelawala and I am an organizer with OPAWL as well as a student.

I am here to urge you all to vote no on House Bill 103. I am currently a rising junior at The Ohio State University studying Political Science and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. I have lived in Ohio my entire life and went to public school in Gahanna. After graduating, I was able to intern with the Ohio Federation of Teachers and learn from and alongside educators regularly. Though I have now done extensive work in the educational space and am now an educational policy organizer, I want to make it clear- I am not an expert in education, but I hope to use my time here today to urge you all to listen to those who are. On the topic of the Birthright curriculum that the proponents seek to implement, The National Council for the Social Studies wrote, " Although the Civics Alliance claims that its standards align with these expectations, they do not. Rather, we view these suggested standards as an attempt to return to a time when United States social studies classrooms presented a single narrative of U.S. and Western history that glorified selected aspects of history while minimizing the experiences, contributions, and perspectives of Indigenous peoples, people of color, women, the LGBTQIA+ community, the working class, and countless others. The writers of the suggested standards use outdated language, have a clear political motive, and promote content and approaches to social studies and history education that do not align with those recommended by experts in social studies content areas. "

My parents are immigrants from India and are now naturalized citizens. I believe that the contributions of people like them deserve to be included in our curriculum and the experts say that this is not the way to do that.

I urge you to vote no on HB 103 and give Ohio students curriculum that is broad and expansive rather than narrow and limiting. Thank you.