

# Higher Education Committee

2022 Resolution

## Opposition to H.B. 327

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WHEREAS, the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Ohio House of Representatives has put forth House Bill #327 during its regular session; and

WHEREAS, the bill is designed to: “amend sections 3314.03 and 3326.11 and to enact sections 3313.6027 and 4113.35 of the Revised Code to prohibit school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and state agencies from teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts”; and

WHEREAS, this bill prohibits the teaching of divisive concepts then states in section 3D that “nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit discussing or using supplemental instructional materials, as part of a larger course of academic instruction, to teach divisive concepts in an objective manner and without endorsement”; and

WHEREAS, this bill states that instruction must be impartial regarding how these divisive concepts are taught; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) opposes this legislation for the following reasons:

A. While the presentation of course material is the responsibility of the instructor and all instructors should be cognizant of the divisiveness of certain content, it must be understood that part of learning in higher education is listening to and attempting to understand different viewpoints on various topics, especially those that are controversial so that students develop critical thinking skills and;

B. While the bill makes an attempt to define “divisive concept,” it leaves the definition open to a broad interpretation that will be easy for someone to find any content or the presentation of that content possibly offensive to a point that the topic will be deemed prohibitive and;

C. All history is open to interpretation. When we begin to legislatively prohibit the teaching of certain viewpoints, we are in essence “rewriting history” in favor of a political viewpoint captured in a specific point in time which is the exact opposite of what should be occurring in a democratic society.