

Human Rights Committee

2022 Resolution

1. Darrell Lausche- 795- Chair
2. Mona Al-Huyani- 250
3. Dan Reinhart- 250
4. Jacqueline Washington- 250
5. Julie Dull- 4595
6. Katy Hess- 1080
7. Stephanie Henderson- 279
8. Justin Willis Sr.- 279
9. Chandra Gardner- 1520
10. Sonya Thacker- 1520
11. Kimberly Toben- 1520
12. Thomas Luvison- 279-R
13. Carolyn Pavel- 795
14. Corin Fonseca- 1080

ADVOCATING FOR HONESTY AND TRUTH IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, schools have the obligation to prepare students for full and productive participation in society, including the ability to read and interpret texts from diverse sources, to think critically in order to solve problems creatively, and to develop a sense of agency and confidence in helping to shape the world they share with each other; and

WHEREAS, U.S. history and current events, like any other humanities subject, can never be neutral, but are an amalgamation of the rich human experiences of many groups and individuals, and can only be understood through a careful comparison, analysis, and discussion of these diverse experiences; and

WHEREAS, HB 322 and HB 327 were both introduced into the Ohio House of Representatives on May 25, 2021, and assigned to the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee on June 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS, HB 322 is sponsored by Ohio State Representative Dan Jones and HB 327 is sponsored by Ohio State Representatives Diane Grendell and Sarah Fowler Arthur; and

WHEREAS, HB 322 and HB 327 would ban the teaching of “divisive concepts” in K-12 schools and state institutions of higher education, defined in broad terms and including, but not limited to, the concepts of systemic racism, sexism and unconscious bias; and

WHEREAS, these bills would prohibit school boards from selecting any textbook, instructional material or academic curriculum, or offering any courses that promote any “divisive concepts,” which could be used to prohibit texts or courses such as African American Studies, Women’s Studies, etc., or even to severely restrict the teaching of U.S. History from any viewpoint other than a Eurocentric lens; and

Human Rights Committee

2022 Resolution

25 WHEREAS, these bills would prohibit the requirement of any K-12, higher education, or state
26 agency employee to complete a curriculum including “divisive concepts” as a condition of
27 employment, which could be used to prohibit implicit bias training or equity training for
28 employees; and

29 WHEREAS, these bills would prohibit school districts, schools or teachers from requiring a
30 student to advocate for or against a specific topic or point of view for class credit, thus stifling
31 student critical thinking; and

32 WHEREAS, these bills are rooted in scare tactics and incorrect definitions about Critical Race
33 Theory (CRT); and

34 WHEREAS, bills similar to HB 322 and HB 327 have been introduced in at least 7 states; and

35 WHEREAS, these bills are part of a well-funded and orchestrated attack on the community’s
36 confidence in public schools by sowing division and mistrust; and

37 WHEREAS, these efforts are being coordinated by organizations such as the American
38 Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the Freedom Foundation, and the Heritage Foundation;
39 and

40 WHEREAS, these bills include financial penalties for school districts that are found to violate
41 the provisions of these bills; and

42 WHEREAS, the financial penalties are another attack on the funding structure of public schools,
43 further eroding the resources available to students in their educational experience; and

44 WHEREAS, these bills also penalize individual educators with licensure revocation, further
45 eroding the desirability of individuals to enter and remain in the education profession and
46 depriving students of highly qualified educators; therefore

47 BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) honors the diversity and dignity of
48 Ohio’s students, school staff, and citizenry; and

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT believes strongly that children and adult learners have
50 the right to an education that imparts honesty about who we are, integrity in how we treat others,
51 and courage to do what’s right; and

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT strongly opposes any attempt to restrict the honest
53 teaching and discussion of our country’s historical and current development, including HB 322
54 and HB 327, which are the creation of ideologically extreme groups and their disinformation
55 campaign, not experts in education, history or child psychology; and

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT encourages districts, and will assist in providing
57 resources and materials, to initiate and maintain rich curricula that teach the full diversity of

Human Rights Committee

2022 Resolution

58 historical and current events with honesty and inclusion, inviting input and participation from
59 students, in age-appropriate ways; and

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT encourages districts, and will assist in providing
61 resources and materials, to initiate and maintain educator training programs to promote school
62 and classroom equity, and culturally responsive pedagogy; and

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT will continue to partner with allies and coalitions, such
64 as Honesty for Ohio Education, and promote resources, such as Facing History Facing Ourselves
65 and Learning for Justice; and

66 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the OFT supports and will defend any member found to be in
67 violation of the provisions of these bills, should they become law, while they provide honest and
68 accurate instruction, and provide equitable access to the curriculum.