

RESOLUTION NO. 34 - 2022

EXPRESSING the opposition of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati to Ohio H.B. No. 327, a bill introduced in the Ohio General Assembly to prohibit school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and state agencies from teaching, advocating, or promoting “divisive concepts,” as it furthers discrimination and targets Black, brown, and LGBTQIA+ individuals by attempting to block important conversations and debates, especially in our educational institutions; and **EXPRESSING** appreciation to Equality Ohio for its work to identify and research legislation that will negatively impact our most vulnerable communities.

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 327 is broad in scope and applies to colleges, universities, state agencies, and political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 327 and other bills that broadly purport to oppose Critical Race Theory are being used to remove leaders of color and women from history, as well as stymie discussion of the role systemic racism plays in our current outcomes; and

WHEREAS, according to Equality Ohio, H.B. No. 327 “seeks to prevent educational institutions from complying with Title IX requirements,” and “its enforcement structure is unworkable;” and

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 327 is part of a larger trend of attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community, specifically erasing history and preventing the achievement of further progress toward equality; and

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 327 ignores the existence of transgender individuals through a narrow definition of sex, and permits teachers the freedom to discriminate against transgender individuals; and

WHEREAS, according to the Ohio Poverty Law Center, “anti-discrimination trainings and diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) programs for staff, while still legal under H.B. No. 327, would have to comply with H.B. No. 327’s ban on including prohibited concepts, making those trainings and programming useless;” and

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 327 unfairly and punitively restricts educators, further confusing and intimidating teachers from discussing crucial subject matters critical to our youth; now, therefore,

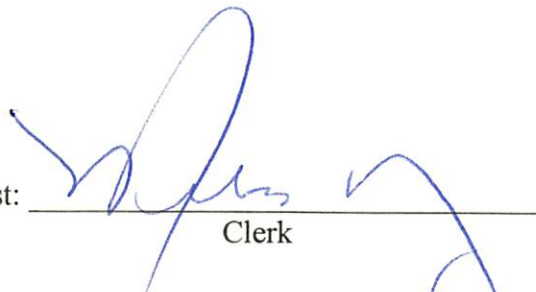
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby express their opposition to H.B. No. 327, a bill introduced in the Ohio General Assembly to prohibit school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and state agencies from teaching, advocating, or promoting “divisive concepts,” as it furthers discrimination and targets Black, brown, and LGBTQIA+ individuals by attempting to block important conversations and debates, especially in our educational institutions.

Section 2. That the Mayor and this Council express their appreciation to Equality Ohio for its work to identify and research legislation that will negatively impact our most vulnerable communities.

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to the office of Councilmember Reggie Harris.

Passed: March 16, 2022

Attest: 
Clerk


Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Reggie Harris