

CMZ *AWG*

RESOLUTION NO. 52 - 2022

EXPRESSING the condemnation of the Mayor and City Council of Ohio House Bill No. 616, which prohibits and censors conversations about the experiences and families of LGBTQ+ Ohioans in our schools from grades K-12.

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 616 would prohibit grades kindergarten through three from teaching, using, or providing any curriculum or instruction materials on sexual orientation or gender identity, and grades four through twelve would be limited to certain instruction materials, lessons, and curriculum on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 616 not only censors critical race theory and the *New York Times* ' "1619 Project," but also censors "diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes" and "any other concept that the state board of education defines as divisive or inherently racist," and this language is exceedingly vague and broad and will challenge free speech in schools, and House Bill No. 616 creates an opportunity to ban discussions about topics that a select few politicians decide are inappropriate or harmful; and

WHEREAS, this bill puts K-12 teachers and schools in an impossible position, making them choose between following state law or federal law; federal law, under Title IX, requires teachers and schools be inclusive of LGBTQ+ students and teachers, however, House Bill No. 616 threatens to revoke teacher licenses and state school funding, or reprimand in any way that the Ohio Department of Education deems appropriate for violations of House Bill No. 616, which will create an untenable conflict of law; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 616 is an attempt to erase LGBTQ+ people from the classroom and is exceptionally cruel to LGBTQ+ community members, their families, and anyone who loves them, and the broad, open-ended ban on race- and gender-related topics deprives all Ohio students of a well-rounded education and puts some of Ohio's most vulnerable students in unsafe and unwelcoming classrooms; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 616 goes several steps further than Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill by extending censorship through the twelfth grade, and because this bill is so extreme, House Bill No. 616 will damage Ohio's reputation and make it less inviting to both industry investors and workforce talent; and

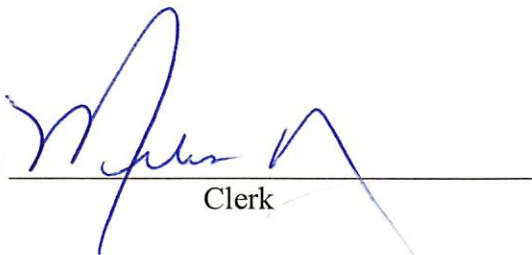
WHEREAS, every student deserves a quality education in a school community where they are safe and supported, and students learn best when they are able to focus on their lessons instead of worrying about being mistreated because of their gender, race, abilities, or where they come from, and education that represents the diverse world around us is critical to maintaining a functioning democracy where our young people grow up prepared to engage in civic activity; now, therefore,

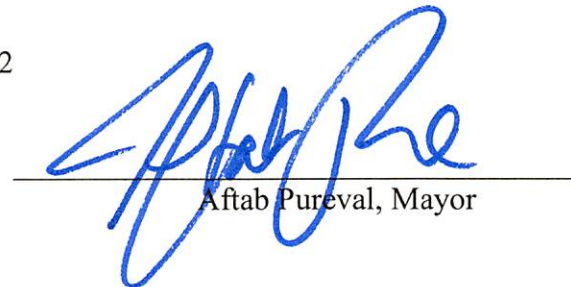
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby condemn proposed Ohio House Bill No. 616, which attempts to censor the education of Ohio students.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to the Ohio General Assembly by the Office of Councilmember Harris.

Passed: April 13, 2022

Attest: 
Clerk


Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Councilmember Reggie Harris, and Councilmember Greg Landsman