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Statewide coalition to hold Statehouse press conference regarding “divisive concepts” bill

Honesty for Ohio Education supports teaching our country’s full and complex history

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 8, 2022 — Honesty for Ohio Education, a new nonpartisan statewide coalition that champions an honest, high-quality education for every young person in Ohio, announced that it is holding a press conference Wednesday, March 9, at 11:30 am in the Ladies’ Gallery at the Ohio Statehouse.

The coalition, which includes more than 30 organizations and hundreds of Ohioans from across the state, is speaking out against House Bill 327, which threatens our freedom to learn about our country’s full and complicated history and how it impacts our lives today.

“We believe that honesty in education is the bedrock of a high-functioning, representative democracy,” said Cynthia Peeples, the coalition’s founding director. “We oppose this legislation and other efforts to restrict and prohibit the comprehensive examination and acknowledgment of how racism, sexism, and intersecting forms of discrimination have shaped America’s history.”

Speakers will include:

- Cynthia Peeples, Founding Director, Honesty for Ohio Education
- Jacob Rintamaki, High School Senior, Westlake High School
- Tom Roberts, President, NAACP Ohio
- Lalitha Pamidigantam, Policy Advisor, YWCA Columbus
- Jennifer LaPlace, Teacher, Centennial High School, and member of the Columbus Education Association
- Maria Bruno, Public Policy Director, Equality Ohio
- Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director, Ohio Council of Churches
- Melissa Cropper, President, Ohio Federation of Teachers
- Sara Kilpatrick, Executive Director, Ohio Conference of the American Association of University Professors
- Gary Daniels, Chief Lobbyist, ACLU Ohio

Each speaker will deliver brief remarks, with their longer written comments and those of other Honesty partners available at the event. All will be available for questions at the conclusion of the press conference, which is scheduled to take place ahead of a March 9 hearing of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, where HB 327 is under consideration.

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A grassroots group of committed educators, families, students, and concerned community members started Honesty for Ohio Education in June 2021. The coalition is united in the belief that every young person deserves an honest, high-quality education grounded in facts and diverse perspectives, regardless of their background, race or zip code. For more information: cpeeples@HonestyForOhioEducation.org and honestyforohioeducation.info/.