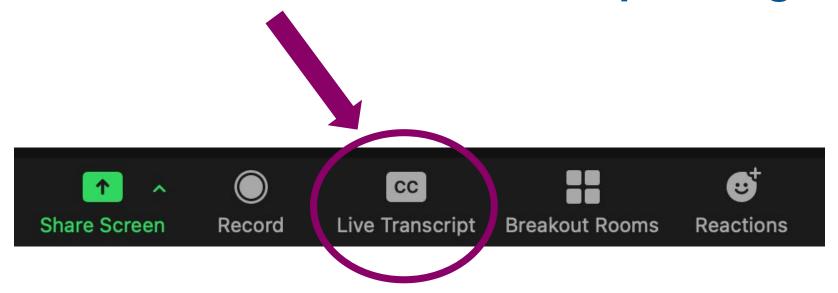
# **CLOSED CAPTIONING**

Click on CC icon to enable captioning



# SB 83 Testimony Workshop

Every student deserves an honest, high-quality education grounded in truth, facts, and diverse perspectives.



# **Honesty Coalition**

Cynthia Peeples
She/Her/Hers
Founding Director
Honesty for Ohio Education





# We Are

### **Coalition**

Nonpartisan, Statewide, Diverse Stakeholders

### 3 Pillars

Educate • Advocate • Build Community

### 3 Priorities

Statehouse • State Board of Ed • Schools

### Resources

Info, Updates, News, Programs, Organizing



























































# Agenda

**State of Education** 

**Overview of Senate Bill 83** 

**Student Impact** 

**Writing & Presenting Testimony** 

Q&A



# The State of Education

# Yesterday...

September 2020 Chris Rufo on Fox News

General Election, national referendum on MAGA agenda

November 2020

May 2021

Ohio introduces 2 censorship bills **April 2022** 

Ohio introduces Don't Say Race/Gay bill

December 2022

20+ Ohio bills attacking public education

### Summer 2020

National reckoning about racial & social injustice in wake of police murder of George Floyd

### September 2020

Trump issues **Executive Order on Combating Race and** Sex Stereotyping ending federal funding of diversity training

### January 2021

Nationally coordinated extremist attack on public education, democracy, repro healthcare, climate...

### **April 2022**

Florida passes Don't Say Gay Bill

### **June 2021**

Florida DOE bans **Critical Race Theory** 



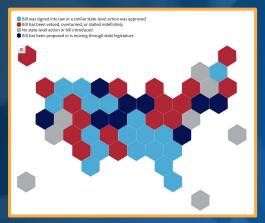
"Parental Rights" Classroom Censorship Teacher Shortage Anti-DEI HE Destruction Vouchers Anti-SEL State Takeover Indoctrination LGBTQ+ Rights Unlicensed Educators Racism Hate Groups Christian Nationalism Book Bans Anti-CRT

# The Harm...

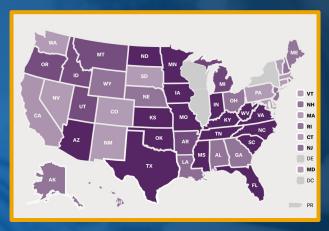
# K-12 Culture War Bills Education Week

K-12 Anti-CRT Bills
UCLA

Anti-LGBTQ+ Bills
ACLU



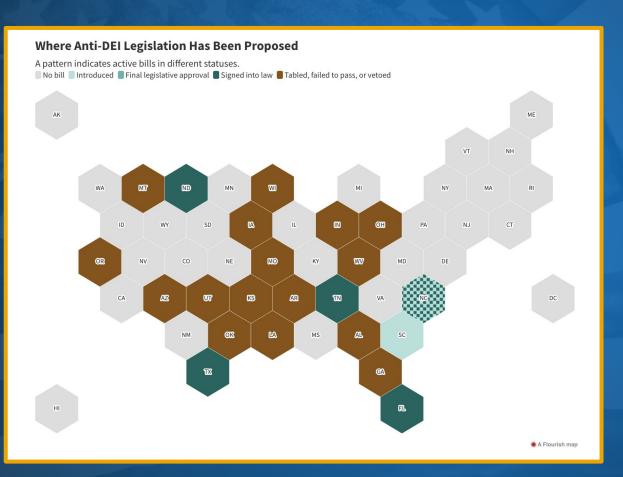






# Hate and Extremist Groups Southern Poverty Law Center

### Higher Education Destruction Bills, Chronicle of Higher Education



### As of July 2023

- 40 bills introduced in 22 states
- 7 final legislative approval
- 7 signed into law
- 29 tabled or failed to pass

# Threats in Ohio

# STATEHOUSE

### National extremist agenda imported into Ohio

### **GOAL:**

- Disrupt & dismantle public education
- Create flight to privatized education
- Distract from REAL education issues
- Perpetuate othering, discrimination, hate

### **HOW:**

- Grow extremist groups
- Weaponize race, identity, faith
- Villainize educators and staff
- Cast chilling effect on education
- Pass extremist legislation

### **Censorship & Curriculum**

SB 83/HB 151 - Higher ed censorship and worker rights

**SB 117** - Higher ed "Intellectual Diversity" centers

**HB 103** - Extremist Overhaul of K12 Social Studies

**SB 17** - Free market capitalism in financial literacy

### **Anti-LGBTQ+**

HB 6 - Trans athlete ban

HB 8 - "Parent Bill of Rights"

**HB 68** - Gender-affirming healthcare ban

**HB 113** - Detrans Awareness Day

**HB 183** - Transgender Restroom Ban

### **Education Governance**

**SB 1 & HB 12** - State takeover of public education

### **Education Funding / Private Schools**

**HB 1** - State taxation bill, guts local govt & school funding

**SB 11 & HB 11** - Universal voucher programs

### **Educator Profession**

**SB 14** - US veterans as unlicensed teachers

**HB 48** - Professional misconduct & indoctrination



# Senate Bill 83

The Higher Education Destruction Act

# The Higher Education *Destruction* Act Bad for Students. Bad for Higher Education. Bad for Ohio.

**Sponsor:** Senator Jerry Cirino | Co-Sponsors: 10

Introduced: March 14, 2023

Status: Passed Senate on May 17, 2023

Referred to House Higher Education Committee

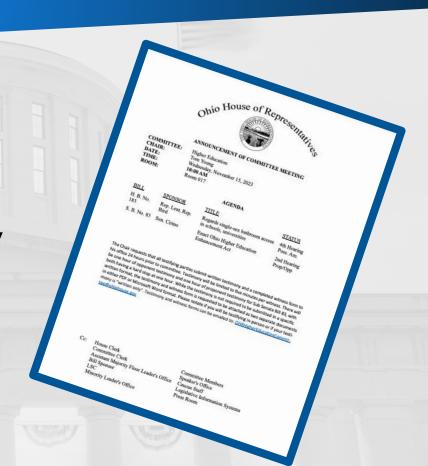
Companion Bill: House Bill 151 (Reps Steve Demetriou, Josh Williams)

# **SB 83 HEARING ALERT**

**OPPONENT & Proponent Testimony** 

Wednesday, November 15, 10am

House Higher Education Committee, Room 17



# The Higher Education Destruction Act Bad for Students. Bad for Higher Education. Bad for Ohio.

### **Prohibitions & Threats**

- Restricts required DEI programs and training
- Bans race and gender based policies
- Restricts discussions and education about "controversial" topics, including climate change
- Bans public positions on "controversial" issues
- Bans academic relationships with China
- Restricts worker rights, including retrenchment

### **Mandates**

- So-called "intellectual diversity"
- Requires US history and government courses with prescriptive content
- Requires online posting of course syllabi and bios
- State-defined commitment statements, policies, performance evaluations
- Bureaucratic reporting and discipline processes

# SB 83 HB 151

# The Higher Education Destruction Act Ohio Senate Bill 83 & House Bill 151

BAD for Students. BAD for Higher Education. BAD for Ohio.

### What does the Act do?

### **PROHIBITIONS & THREATS:**

- Bans required DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) training and programs
- Bans groups, clubs, orgs based on race, sex, sexuality, gender identity, possibly athletic teams and dorms
- Bans programs, policies, practices based on race, sex, sexuality, gender identity
- Restricts discussions about race, sex, sexuality, gender identity, "controversial" topics, including climate change
- Bans public statements and positions about "controversial" topics
- Bans academic relationships with China
- Bans employee strikes (faculty, staff, students)

### MANDATES:

- Requires so-called "intellectual diversity" to force colorblind ideology on instruction, courses, departments, policies, admissions, hiring, tenure
- Requires online posting of course syllabi
- Requires US history or gov't course for graduation, taught with specific material
- Requires state-defined mission statements, policies, performance evaluations, reporting
- Requires post-tenure review and other discipline for violations

### HARM & IMPACT

Attacks academic freedom, tenure, students' freedom to learn

**Weaponizes "intellectual diversity"** to censor honest, inclusive education and critical thinking

Dismisses race, culture, identity, lived experiences as "controversial beliefs and policies"

Attacks workers' rights, creating unfit working conditions and unsafe learning environments

**Leaves students unprepared** for multicultural, global workplaces that prioritize DEI and critical thinking

### TAKE ACTION











STOP Senate Bill 83



Visit: HonestyForOhioEducation.org
Follow: @honesty4OhioEd on ?



# **Honesty Welcomes**

Sara Kilpatrick
She/Her/Hers
Executive Director
Ohio Conference of the American
Association of University Professors



### **Concerns** with ALL Versions of SB 83

- Chilling academic freedom
- Stifling honest education
- Attacking DEI initiatives
- Imposing one-size-fits-all mandates
- Union-busting
- Tenure-busting

### **Major Changes Since the Original Bill**

- Removal of "segregation" language
- Removes references to "specified concepts/ideologies"
- Allows for mandatory DEI in certain situations
- Removes prohibition on union strikes
- Removes American government/history course from chancellor's purview
- Includes definition of "retrenchment"

### What are the biggest outstanding problems with the bill?

- Academic Freedom: The bill still contains broad and confusing language about "intellectual diversity" and faculty maintaining a commitment to allow students to "reach their own conclusions" on "controversial beliefs or policies" discussed in the classroom.
- Prohibited Bargaining Subjects: The bill still would ban retrenchment, tenure, and
  evaluations as subjects for collective bargaining. These are some of the most
  fundamental aspects of the terms and conditions of faculty employment; so removing
  them as subjects for bargaining is a thinly-veiled form of union-busting.

### What are the biggest outstanding problems with the bill?

- Post-Tenure Review: The language that grants broad authority for certain administrators to call for post-tenure review at any time would effectively end meaningful tenure in Ohio.
- Faculty Evaluations: Colleges and universities already have created and effectively implemented systems of faculty evaluations.
- Public Posting of Syllabi and Instructor Information: The requirements to post online
  the instructor's course schedule, contact information, as well as a detailed calendar of
  course topics cannot possibly be well-intentioned.
- DEI: Still bans mandatory DEI with some exceptions.

### What is Retrenchment?

Terminating academic programs and faculty positions, typically due to financial exigency.

### How does SB 83 -11 define retrenchment?

"Retrenchment" means a process by which a state institution of higher education reduces programs or services, thus resulting in a temporary suspension or permanent separation of one or more institution faculty, to account for a reduction in student population or overall funding, a change to institutional missions or programs, or other fiscal pressures or emergencies facing the institution."

### Why is the retrenchment definition problematic?

- While the bill allows institutions to adopt their own retrenchment policies, the bill also bans retrenchment as a topic for collective bargaining. It ignores processes that already have been adopted through collective bargaining agreements and/or shared governance procedures.
- This would lend itself not only to short-sighted decision-making and instability for students and faculty, but also to undue political influence in program and faculty termination decisions (as would the post-tenure review).

### The Overarching Message on SB 83

- SB 83 is an unnecessary, big-government bill designed to dictate much of what institutions already have determined for themselves.
- Much of the bill was copied from right-wing think tank model legislation. It doesn't solve Ohio problems.
- It would have the opposite impact of "more speech" on campus. It will stifle honest conversations.
- It will hurt Ohio's ability to attract excellent students and faculty. This will hurt Ohio's economy.

SB 83 is bad for students, bad for higher education, and bad for Ohio!

# Honesty Welcomes

Maria Vitoria de Rezende Grisi PhD Student The Ohio State University



# **Honesty Welcomes**

Rachel Coyle She/Her/Hers Founder How Things Work at the Statehouse



# How Things Work at the Ohio Statehouse



SB 83 TESTIMONY EDITION

**Presented by Rachel Coyle** 

# REMEMBER:

- You have SO MUCH POWER at the Statehouse level.
  - Why? Because hardly anyone contacts their state legislators.
- It DOES NOT take very many people to make noise at the Statehouse.
  - Use this power. If you don't, someone else will.



# WHAT WE'LL COVER TODAY:

- How to follow SB 83
- How to submit testimony
- Testimony Tips
- Committee Rules
- Other key ways to oppose SB 83
- Questions?

# Following SB 83 — Current Status

- Passed the Ohio Senate in May 2023
- Now receiving hearings in the House Higher Education Committee
- If it passes House committee, it will then need a vote from the FULL Ohio House.
- Then it would need a concurrence (yes or no) vote from the Senate.
- Then it would go to Gov DeWine for his signature.

# Following SB 83 — Committee Hearings

- After a bill is assigned to a committee, it (usually) starts to receive hearings.
  - SB 83 House committee hearings (so far):
    - 1st hearing Sponsor testimony
    - 2nd hearing proponent (supporter) and opponent testimony
    - Next hearing....Interested Party testimony and a vote? TBD



# Following SB 83 — Committee Notices

How to find out when bills you care about are receiving hearings:

- CONTACT committee chairs.
  - Ask to be placed on their "committee notice list."



#### Legislature.Ohio.gov



#### QUICK LINKS

**House Directory** Senate Directory Calendar Session Schedule

**House Committees** Senate Committees Ohio Constitution

#### Chamber





Senate

Keywords

Enter keywords or bill number (e.g. HB15)

Search By Address

Address (e.g. 121 Main St.)

Search

#### **House Standing Committees**















SESSION

RESOURCES

MY OHIO LEGISLATURE

a

**Higher Education Committee** 







Joseph A. Miller, III District 53 | D Ranking Member



Munira Abdullahi District 9 | D



Adam C. Bird District 63 | R







Derek Merrin District 42 | R



Gail K. Pavliga District 72 | R





Phillip M. Robinson, Jr. District 19 | D



District 64 | R

#### Rep37@OhioHouse.gov



#### House District 37





#### Working For You

#### Young Supports Historic Aviation, Aerospace Project Coming to Ohio

COLUMBUS — State Representative Tom Young (R-Washington Twp.) recently participated in the announcement of Joby Aviation's \$477 million investment at Dayton International Airport for the construction of a manufacturing facility for their electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft.

#### Read Full Story

Fri, Sep 22, 2023

#### Young Supports State Operating Budget

COLUMBUS – State Representative Tom Young (R-Washington Twp.) voted to support the Ohio House state operating budget and the bill passed during session Wednesday. The legislation provides billions in funding over the next two fiscal years to grow the economy and workforce, protect Ohio families and most vulnerable, and invest in educating our communities.

#### Read Full Story

Thu, Apr 27, 2023

#### Young, Demetriou Introduce Bill to Exclude CBDC as Money

COLUMBUS — State Representatives Tom Young (R-Washington Twp.) and Steve Demetriou (R-Bainbridge Twp.) have introduced legislation that will not recognize central bank digital currency as money in Ohio.

#### Read Full Story

Thu, Apr 20, 2023

#### **Contact Info** →

### TESTIFYING IN COMMITTEE

- Come testify against SB 83!
  - GOAL: Testify in person.

- Please TRY TO present your testimony in person whenever possible. BUT....
  - Can't testify in person? You can also submit written-only testimony.

## HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY (IN-PERSON OR WRITTEN-ONLY!):

imony.

**STEP 1:** Write your testimony.

STEP 2: Email your (written or in-person) testimony to the Committee Chair. 24 hours in advance.

STEP 3: Email a completed "Witness Slip" form along with your testimony.

- If you're submitting written-only testimony, that's it. You're done!
- If you're testifying in person, all that's left is to show up!

### WHAT MAKES GOOD TESTIMONY

### •Short and sweet!!

•If there's a lot of testimony, you'll likely be limited to 2-3 minutes. Make them count.

### Consider your audience

Think of your most conservative relative.
 That's your audience.

TESTIMONY TEMPLATE:	innin
Chairman/woman, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and members of theCommittee,	
Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is I am [basic bio about who you are]. I am strongly opposed to (or I strongly support) [Bill Number].	
[Then tell them why! Make it short and sweet - a few paragraphs is perfect. Tell a personal story. Or explain why your job experience gives you this perspective on the bill. Maybe cite some statistics or case studies to back up your claims]	// ////// 001
I ask you to consider my testimony and vote [NO/YES] on this [harmful/dangerous/important/life-saving/etc.] bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.  I will now take any questions you may have.	
AFTER YOU ARE FINISHED SPEAKING:	
Legislators may ask you questions.  • They are more likely to ask questions if you provide data/statistics or present yourself as	

 They are more likely to ask questions if you provide data/statistics or present yourself as having professional experience related to the bill. This can be awesome! But be prepared to back up your testimony!

### Find previous testimonies: Legislature.Ohio.gov



### THE OHIO LEGISLATURE

135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



#### **Legislature.Ohio.gov** → **Legislation** → **Search Legislation**

COMMITTEES



**Enact Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act** 

**LEGISLATORS** 

**LEGISLATION** 

#### THE OHIO LEGISLATURE

135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SESSION

BUDGET

LAWS

**PUBLICATIONS** 

Cirino

My Ohio Legislature

As Passed by the

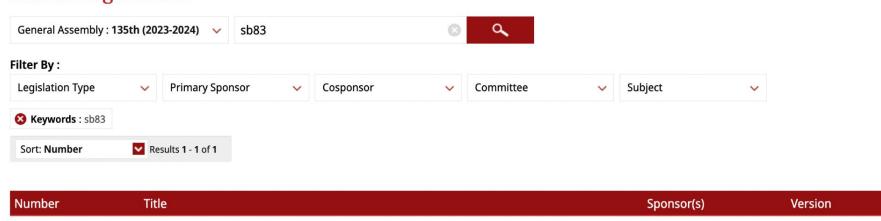
Senate



**SCHEDULES** 

HOME

S. B. No. 83



### Bill pages look like:



#### THE OHIO LEGISLATURE

135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOME

SCHEDULES

**LEGISLATION** 

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**PUBLICATIONS** 

#### Senate Bill 83

Summary

**Documents** 

Status

Votes

**Committee Activity** 

Committee

Return To Search

#### **Primary Sponsors**



#### Enact Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act

[ Show Long Title ]

#### **Current Version**

In House

As Passed by the Senate PDF



Committee

House

**Bill Text** 

Bill Text

Document

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Download

Proponent

Find previous testimonies under the "Committee Activity"tab!

HOME **SCHEDULES** LEGISLATION **LEGISLATORS** COMMITTEES LAWS **PUBLICATIONS** SESSION BUDGET Track It **Documents** Votes **Committee Activity** Summary Status

Date

Date

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#### **Primary Sponsors**



#### Cosponsors

SENATORS	
Andrew O. Brenner	
Frank Hoagland	
Terry Johnson	
George F. Lang	

#### **Senate Committees**

Committee

Committee

Peter Wood

Workforce and Higher Education	March 22, 2023	1st Hearing		Download
Witness	Ormanination		Tootif in a Ac	Desument
Witness	Organization		Testifying As	Document
Senator Jerry Cirino	Ohio Senate		Sponsor	Download

Status

Committee	Dute	Status	Dill Text
Workforce and Higher Education	March 29, 2023	2nd Hearing	Download

Status

Witness	Organization	Testifying As
Hal Arkes	Citizen of Ohio	Proponent
Dr. Michael B. Poliakoff, Ph.D.	The American Council of Trustees and Alumni	Proponent
Richard Vedder	Citizen of Ohio	Proponent
George Dent	National Association of Scholars	Proponent

National Association of Scholars

### **COMMITTEE RULES**

#### It's fine to have your phone out.

- Texting is ok
- Tweeting is ok
- Facebook posts are ok

#### Photos are SOMETIMES ok....

But sometimes the Chair will announce no photos.

You cannot record video or audio without permission.



There could be multiple bills receiving hearings in the committee. Listen for your bill number to be called.

- Then the chair will begin calling witnesses up by name to testify
- The committee chair has a list of people who submitted testimony 24 hours in advance

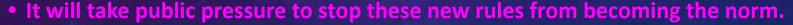
## After you finish testifying....

The committee members can ask you questions.

For each question, start your response with "Through the Chair, to the Representative...."

### Troubling trends....

- We've started seeing new rules recently....
  - Invite-only testimony
  - Limited number of testimonies accepted.



- Post all over social media!
- Make sure the press knows! Ask them to write a story.
- Protest in the halls of the Statehouse







### The Columbus Dispatch



VOTE FOR AMERICA'S ICONIC DISHES FOR A CHANCE TO WIN BIG

dening | In praise of sley: Biennial herb ed with nutrients,...



Poindexter's civil rights legacy honored in art exhibit at church



Short North club closes as owner gives up fight



Emil Bemstrom's slap shot is a weapon too rarely seen for the Blue Jackets



Tatum Skaggs' OT goal gives Ohio State women WCHA championship



### Hearing on Ohio bill to limit protest ends in — what else? — protest



### **Contact key legislators** — **Phone**

Tell these legislators why SB 83 is bad for students, bad for workers, and bad for Ohio:

- Rep Justin Pizzulli: 614-466-2124
- Rep Gail Pavliga: 614-466-2004
- Rep Gayle Manning: 614-644-5076
- Rep Nick Santucci: 614-466-5441
- House Speaker Stephens: 614-466-1366

### **Contact key legislators** — **Email**

Tell these legislators why SB 83 is bad for students, bad for workers, and bad for Ohio:

- Rep Justin Pizzulli: Rep90@OhioHouse.gov
- Rep Gail Pavliga: Rep72@OhioHouse.gov
- Rep Gayle Manning: Rep52@OhioHouse.gov
- Rep Nick Santucci: Rep64@OhioHouse.gov
- House Speaker Stephens: Rep93@OhioHouse.gov



### Contact key legislators — Social Media



Tell these legislators why SB 83 is bad for students, bad for workers, and bad for Ohio:

- Rep Manning: @GayleManningOH
- Rep Santucci: @NickSSantucci
- House Speaker Stephens: @jasoncstephens

## Follow Honesty For Ohio Education!

**HonestyForOhioEducation.org** → **Join Mailing List** 

**Facebook: Honesty For Ohio Education** 

Twitter/X and Instagram: @Honesty4OhioEd



### LIVE BROADCASTS OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS



- You can watch all House and Senate Sessions AND all committee hearings live on OhioChannel.org – it's free!
  - The videos are also archived on the site!
- This is a massive win for Statehouse Democrats.

#### OhioChannel.org



Search Video Library



A SERVICE OF OHIO'S PUBLIC BROADCASTING STATIONS f









House Session ARCHIVE



Senate Session ARCHIVE



Supreme Court ARCHIVE



**NEXT STREAM:** MOCK TRIAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MAR 14 - 9:15 AM



Conference Committee ARCHIVE

#### OHIO HOUSE AGING & LONG TERM CARE

House Aging Committee ARCHIVE



House Agriculture Committee ARCHIVE

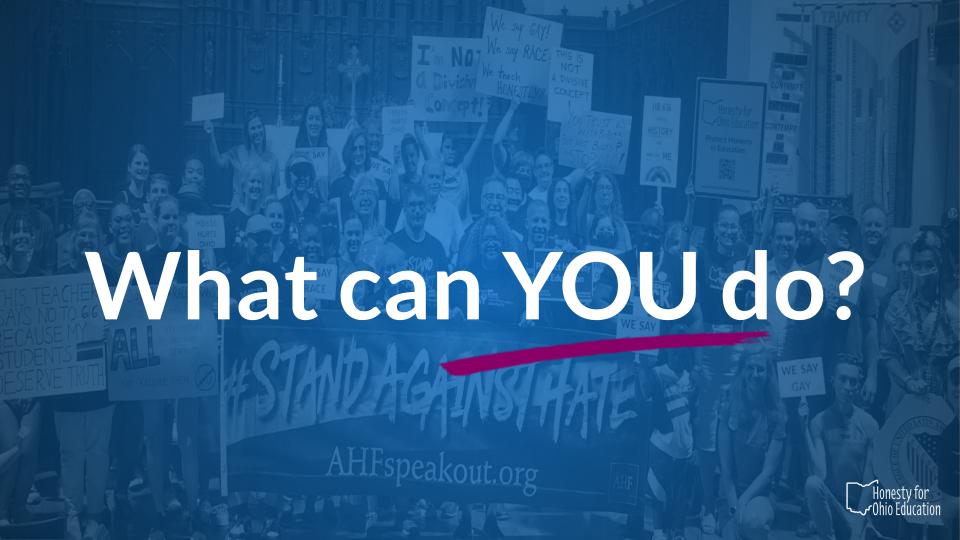


OHIO HOUSE

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## Questions?



## **Stay Connected**

**JOIN** the Honesty Mailing List

FOLLOW @Honesty4OhioEd

**ATTEND Events & Programs** 

**SHARE** Alerts, Newsletter, Info

**INVITE** Us to Your Community/Org



### Resources

#### **Honesty for Ohio Education**

- Mailing List HERE
- Legislation Tracker HERE | Flyer HERE
- Website HERE
- Social Media: FB Instagram Twitter

#### **State of Education**

- Track Actions Across US K-12 | CRT | HE
- Roots of Critical Race Theory Campaign HERE
- Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping HERE

#### **Statehouse**

- Honesty Legislation Tracker HERE
- Ohio Legislature Site HERE

#### **State Board of Education**

- Each Child Our Future Strategic Plan HERE
- Whole Child Framework HERE
- Education Resources HERE
- Anti-LGBTQ+ Resolution HERE
- Anti-Racism and Equity Resolution HERE
- Gerrymandering SBOE Districts HERE

#### **Local Schools**

- 2022 KIDS COUNT Data Book HERE
- 2022 KIDS COUNT Ohio Data Profile HERE
- Finding Unity and Common Ground HERE
- ACLU Ohio Student Rights Handbook HERE

# Thank You

