

**CLEVELAND HEIGHTS - UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO OH HB 616**

WHEREAS, Ohio House Bill 616 has been introduced to amend and enact sections of the Revised Code regarding the promotion and teaching of divisive or racist concepts in Ohio's public schools; and

WHEREAS, provisions within this bill are contrary to the values of the Cleveland Heights - University Heights Board of Education as expressed in its Educational Equity Policy; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 4122.03 – Educational Equity states: “The responsibility for the disparities among our young people rests with adults, not the children.” Our policy further states: “complex societal and historical factors contribute to the inequities our students face. Nonetheless, rather than perpetuating disparities, the District must address and overcome this institutional inequity, providing all students with the support and opportunity to succeed.” HB 616 would obstruct our ability to address those historical factors. And

WHEREAS, far from eliminating racism and discrimination as envisioned by the Board's Equity Policy, House Bill 616 would perpetuate racism and discrimination, and would limit the concepts, ideas, and materials that may be taught and used in the classroom to combat racism and other forms of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 616 is poorly written, allowing the State Board of Education to define concepts it finds to be “divisive” or not “age and developmentally appropriate.” We remind the legislature that only one current member of our State Board of Education is a licensed educator, and she too opposes HB 616. And

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is concerned that HB 616 seeks to limit candid conversations about race and gender identity in our schools, spaces in which all children should feel safe and welcome. The Board of Education is further concerned that HB 616 embraces fear and would exacerbate a mental health crisis that already exists within our schools and community in the wake of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2003, the City of Cleveland Heights was the first municipality in the country to adopt a Domestic Partnership Registry through a ballot initiative, and all three of our host cities pride themselves as places where all families are welcome and safe. And

WHEREAS, In the Cleveland Heights - University Heights School District, “Public is for All” is not a slogan, it is our ethos. So, we urge legislators to return to their traditional “home rule” stance by not imposing their cultural agenda onto our community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cleveland Heights - University Heights Board of Education believes that our state licensed professional teachers and administrators are

best qualified to make decisions regarding the appropriateness of instructional materials and techniques in our classrooms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cleveland Heights - University Heights Board of Education strongly opposes Ohio House Bill 616. The Superintendent is directed to forward this resolution to the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives.