



Undergraduate Student Government of the Kent Campus

Sponsor: Director Gomez

Co-sponsors: President Jackson, Chief Dingey, Director Fermainitt, Direct Hibbett, Senator Boardman, Intern Magda

GA/R/F2021-002

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

A Resolution to formally condemn Ohio House Bills 322 and 327.

Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government represents all students, including students from marginalized identities and diverse backgrounds.

Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government has full authority to take official stances on state legislation that impacts the student body.

Whereas, House Bill 327 prohibits the teaching of “divisive concepts” and encourages “impartial discussion of controversial aspects of history.” Impartial, defined as treating both sides equally when discussing “controversial topics” such as racism, gender, sexuality, and slavery.

Whereas, House Bill 322 reads “no teacher shall be required by a policy of any state agency, school district, or school administration to affirm a belief in the systemic nature of racism” when the historical impacts of systemic racism are undeniable and are clearly shown through the implementation of Jim Crow laws, eugenics, racial gerrymandering and in instances of discrimination in hiring, lending, and housing.

Whereas, House Bill 327 pushes for “the impartial instruction on the historical oppression of a particular group of people based on race, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, or geographic region”, which allows the perspective of the oppressor to be equated to that of the people being oppressed.

Whereas, House Bill 322 enables teachers to refuse to affirm the “fluidity or multiplicity of gender”, which leads to legal protection to those in positions of power over LGBTQ+ identifying students to perpetuate gender-based discrimination.

Whereas, Kent State University would lose state funding if just one infraction of this bill would occur, (i.e.) if a professor teaches a controversial topic mainly from a marginalized person's point of view.

Whereas, The League of Women Voters of Ohio, who advocate for political participation and lobbies on policy issues, strongly opposes these bills, "because they are an attack on honesty in the classroom".

Whereas, Bowling Green University's Undergraduate Student Government along with the Ohio Student Government Association (OSGA) passed resolutions condemning House Bills 322 and 327.

Whereas, students can participate in the free exchange of ideas and are intelligent enough to come up with their own opinions and conclusions without the intervention of the state government.

Whereas, limiting discourse in any capacity that does not disrupt the learning environment is unconstitutional and violates the first amendment right to freedom of speech and expression.

Therefore, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Undergraduate Student Senate of the Kent Campus of Kent State University, acting in full session, as follows:

Section 1: The Undergraduate Student Government formally condemns Ohio House Bills 322 and 327.

Section 2: The Undergraduate Student Government urges all Ohio House Representatives to vote no on the passage of House Bills 322 and 327.

Section 3: The Undergraduate Student Government will publicly and actively advocate against the passage of Ohio House Bills 322 and 327.

Works Cited

- H. B. No. 322 - search-prod.lis.state.oh.us.* (n.d.). Retrieved October 18, 2021, from https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/hb451/IN/00/hb451_00_IN?format=pdf.
- H. B. No. 327 - search-prod.lis.state.oh.us.* (n.d.). Retrieved October 18, 2021, from https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/hb327/IN/00/hb327_00_IN?format=pdf.
- H.B. 322 bill analysis 134th S fiscal note.* (n.d.). Retrieved October 18, 2021, from <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=17005&format=pdf>.
- S. B. No. 135.* (n.d.). Retrieved October 18, 2021, from https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/sb135/PS/02/sb135_02_PS?format=pdf.
- Chiarelott, A. (n.d.). Retrieved October 18, 2021, from <https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/usg/USGStatements/From-the-Desk-of-President-Chiarelott-on-HB322-HB327.pdf>.