Good Afternoon,

On September 13th, 2021 the Undergraduate Student Government convened for our second General Assembly of the Fall 2021 semester and in doing so have unanimously passed Senate Resolution 03 entitled “A Resolution Formally Opposing Ohio House Bill 322 and Ohio House Bill 327 and Advocating for Free and Honest Education.”

The Undergraduate Student Government and Bowling Green State University champion efforts to expand and enhance diversity and inclusion efforts not only on this campus but within our greater community. These two house bills are the antithesis of everything we stand for, and thus should be responded to rapidly and definitively by students and university leadership.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me via email at achiare@bgsu.edu.

Thank you,

Alexander Chiarelott

Undergraduate Student Government President
S.R. 2021/2022 – 03

A Resolution Formally Opposing Ohio House Bill 322 and Ohio House Bill 327 and Advocating for Free and Honest Education

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

Date:

9/13/21

Authored by:

Nolan McHugh, Internal Affairs Chair, Arianna Bustos, Director of Campus Workers, Ty Jennings, BGSU Student

Sponsored by:

Zachary Noesen, Academic Affairs Chair

9/13/21

Approved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body, and prepared for the presentation to the president of the Undergraduate Student Government

9/13/21

Approved by the president of the Undergraduate Student Government, and so order into effect.

Gabriel Wagner
Speaker of the Senate

Alexander Chiarelott
President of the Undergraduate Student Government
S.R. 2021/2022 – 03

A Resolution Formally Opposing Ohio House Bill 322 and Ohio House Bill 327 and
Advocating for Free and Honest Education

In the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body here assembled,

1. Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government represents the undergraduate student voice
2. at Bowling Green State University; and

3. Whereas, Bowling Green State University and the Undergraduate Student Government
4. aim to ensure all student voices are represented within the Senate; and

5. Whereas, standing in opposition to House Bills 322 and 327 is not a political stance, rather it
6. is an appeal to free and honest education in the state of Ohio on the issues of diversity, equity,
7. and inclusivity; and

8. Whereas, House Bills 322 and 327 unambiguously attempt to criminalize the teaching of
9. diversity, equity, and inclusivity education in a variety of ways, matters which are not up for
10. political debate due to these bills’ hateful nature; and

11. Whereas, House Bill 322 reads “Sec. 3313.6029. No teacher shall be required by a policy of
12. any state agency, school district, or school administration to affirm a belief in the systemic
13. nature of racism”; and

14. Whereas, issues of racism undeniably exist and have residual impacts in systemic ways,
15. such as the negative impacts felt by people of color due to segregation and Jim Crow laws,
16. discrimination in policing, hiring, lending, and housing of people of color, redlining, racial
17. gerrymandering, and many other instances of systemic racism; and

18. Whereas, House Bill 327\(^1\) threatens to withhold essential state funding from public schools
19. for merely teaching history from various and diverse perspectives, such as the perspective of
20. marginalized people; and

\(^1\) H.B. 327
21. **Whereas**, withholding money from already underfunded public schools will only serve to further disadvantage students from marginalized communities who endeavor to learn their own history and correct the wrongs which they have been dealt; and

24. **Whereas**, House Bill 322 includes language which enables teachers or administrators to refuse to affirm the “fluidity or multiplicity of gender”, effectively extending legal protections to adults in positions of power over LGBTQ+ students to perpetuate gender-based discrimination; and

28 **Whereas**, House Bill 322\(^2\) and House Bill 327 deny BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) K-12 students the educational right to liberate themselves through courses such as Social Studies and English Literature in a school environment; and

31. **Whereas**, House Bill 322 (Sec. 3313.6027) restricts inclusive teaching practices by prohibiting requiring, making part of a course, or giving course grading or credit for “Any practicum, action project, or similar activity that involves social or public policy advocacy” (255-256), meaning a student could not create a project advocating for a particular political stance after conducting academic research using scholarly sources; and

36. **Whereas**, House Bill 327 prohibits K-12 students from critically engaging with “divisive concepts”, a deliberately vague phrase that would greatly restrict students from partaking in open and respectful discourse in a classroom setting on a variety of “divisive concepts”: “(B)(1) No school district shall teach, instruct, or train any divisive concepts (54-55)”; and

40. **Whereas**, House Bill 322 would prohibit any school district from making it a requirement of Social Studies curriculum “...to discuss current events or widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs.”, an action which would counteract the purpose of a robust social studies education, which is to prepare informed, civically-engaged, justice-oriented citizens to participate within our democracy; and

45. **Whereas**, the League of Women Voters of Ohio strongly opposes these bills, “because they are an attack on honesty in the classroom.”\(^3\); and

47. **Whereas**, the Ohio Education Association also condemns these bills, with President Scott DiMauro lamenting that he “is disturbed, disappointed, and disheartened by recent efforts to

---

\(^2\) H.B. 322

\(^3\) League of Women Voters of Ohio
49. white-out American history by hiding the truth from Ohio’s children – depriving them of the world-class, truth-based education they deserve⁴; and

51. Whereas, the Ohio Council for the Social Studies, too, is firmly opposed to these bills, citing the bills’ prohibition of teaching or training staff on “divisive concepts”, withholding of state funding for doing so, and many other transgressions; and

54. Whereas, the Ohio Academy of History⁵, a professional society of teachers, scholars, and public historians also released a statement opposing the bills, emphasizing the need to carefully study history from a variety of perspectives and sources, something which these bills would greatly restrict; and

58. Whereas, the Ohio Student Government Association, a body which represents over 500,000 university students across the state, passed a resolution urging these bills to be voted down; and

61. Therefore, let it be resolved that, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State University urges all students and faculty to contact the Wood County Ohio House Representative Haraz Ghanbari (Phone: (614) 466-8104), Email: rep03@ohiohouse.gov and/or District 08 Representative, including BGSU Firelands Campus, D.J. Swearingin (Phone: (614) 644-6011, Email: rep89@ohiohouse.gov) and demand that they vote down these measures; and

67. Let it be Further Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State University calls for Bowling Green State University and its peer institutions to take active measures to oppose these bills; and

70. Let it be Further Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State University encourages students to contact Inclusive Culturally Responsive Educators (ICRE) for training on delivering testimony against these bills as well as further education on the bills themselves (Ty Jennings, President: tyshonji@bgsu.edu, Arianna Bustos, Vice President: abustos@bgsu.edu); and

75. Let it be Further Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State University urges students, faculty, and staff to sign the petition entitled Standing in Opposition to House Bill 322 and House Bill 327⁶, linked at the bottom of this page, demanding these bills be voted down; and

⁴ Ohio Education Association
⁵ Ohio Academy of History
⁶ Standing in Opposition to House Bill 322 and House Bill 327 Petition
79. Let it be Further Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State University urges that House Bill 322 and 327 be voted down in the Ohio House of Representatives.
THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

Passed by the Senate and ordered presented to the president of the Undergraduate Student Body for Approval or Veto.

Gabriel Wagner
Speaker of the Senate

I do hereby approve and order this legislation into effect.

Alexander Chiarelott
President of the Undergraduate Student Government

I do hereby disapprove and order this legislation to be returned to the Senate.

Alexander Chiarelott
President of the Undergraduate Student Government