

University Senate Resolution on Ohio House Bill 327

February 24, 2022

The Ohio State University Senate, comprised of students, faculty, staff, and administrators, opposes Ohio House Bill 327, version 12. This proposed legislation violates our stated purpose since 1870 of *education for citizenship*. HB327 restricts the free exchange of ideas between students and this faculty, violating Ohio laws governing academic freedom. These laws require faculty to not be bound by opinion or the whims of political parties. Their stated purpose is “essential to the preservation of a free society” with the academic responsibility to “pursue excellence, intellectual honesty, and objectivity in teaching” ([Ohio Administrative Code 3335-5-01](#)). HB327 enables polemic political control inside each classroom, a dangerous precedent with long-term negative consequences.

Higher education empowers current and future citizens of Ohio with critical thinking skills needed to succeed in a global, equitable, inclusive, and diverse future. This Senate passed a [prior resolution](#) in December 2021 to Support Educators’ Rights to Teach About Racism. HB327’s impingements on faculty independence will restrict critical thinking, leading to revocation of our [accreditation](#) by the Higher Learning Commission, and will position Ohio at a competitive and intellectual disadvantage.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor Ken Lee, Senate Faculty Council Chair

Professor Caroline Clark, Ad Hoc Teaching Racism Chair

Donna Y. Ford, Distinguished Professor of Education and Human Ecology.

Professor Lisa Voigt, Faculty Senator, AAUP-OSU Trustee