



**OHIO PTA BOARD
POSITION STATEMENT
AFFIRMATION OF TRANSGENDER CARE AND ANTI-RACISM WORK IN OHIO SCHOOLS**

In early 2022, the Ohio legislature introduced bills that would allow teachers to claim religious or philosophical exemption when teaching topics such as “systemic racism”, or the “multiplicity or fluidity of gender identities” ([Ohio HB 322](#)), broadly prohibits the teaching of, “divisive concepts” ([Ohio HB 327](#)), including “diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes” ([Ohio HB 616](#)), and prohibit nurses, counselors, teachers, principals, or other officials or staff at a public or private school from withholding confidential information about the minor’s perception that his or her gender is inconsistent with his or her sex”, as well as forbids gender transition procedures of minors ([Ohio HB 454](#)).

Numerous groups have publicly condemned many of these bills including The Ohio University University Senate, Cincinnati City Council, the Ohio Library Council, Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Mayor’s Alliance, Ohio Township Association, the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, the Ohio Education Association, the Xavier University Student Government Association, the Columbus City Schools Board of Education, Akron City Council, Cincinnati Public Schools Board of Education, and seven of the 25 Columbus-area companies with the most full-time employees (Honda, Bath & Body Works, Cardinal Health, AEP, Bread Financial, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Batelle).

The National PTA, together with the Ohio PTA, have long been advocates of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and anti-racism work in public schools.

The Trevor Project (the world’s largest suicide prevention and mental health organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning (LGBTQ) youth) released the results from a 2022 poll that found that, “a majority of U.S. adults oppose blocking students from accessing LGBTQ resources and educational content on the internet at school (57%), banning books on LGBTQ topics from school libraries (56%), and banning classroom discussions about LGBTQ topics — including sexual orientation and gender identity — in school (52%). Further, a majority of adults agree that transgender minors should have access to gender-affirming hormone therapy (55%) and puberty blockers (52%) if it’s recommended by their doctor and supported by their parents.” Their “2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health” noted that, “LGBTQ youth who found their school to be LGBTQ-affirming reported lower rates of attempting suicide.”

The Ohio PTA Board of Directors joins youth advocates across our state as we condemn any legislative efforts that do not support and care for LGBTQIA+ youth or silences important

conversations about sexual orientation, gender identity, systemic racism, anti-racism, or diversity, equity, and inclusion. We encourage Ohio PTA members throughout our state to contact their state representatives and denounce any legislation that does not ultimately support a safe and supportive educational environment for all Ohio youth.

WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature has introduced bills that would allow teachers to claim religious or philosophical exemption when teaching topics such as “systemic racism”, or the “multiplicity or fluidity of gender identities” ([Ohio HB 322](#)), broadly prohibits the teaching of, “divisive concepts” ([Ohio HB 327](#)), including “diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes” ([Ohio HB 616](#)), and prohibit nurses, counselors, teachers, principals, or other officials or staff at a public or private school from withholding confidential information about the minor’s perception that his or her gender is inconsistent with his or her sex”, as well as forbids gender transition procedures of minors ([Ohio HB 454](#)).

WHEREAS, In 2020, the National PTA adopted a position statement on, “Harmful Sexual Orientation and Identity Change”. This statement stated that, “National PTA recognizes that LGBTQ youth who experience family rejection based on their sexual orientation or gender identity face serious health risks, including being over eight times more likely to report having attempted suicide, over five times more likely to report high levels of depression and over three times more likely to use illegal drugs compared with their peers. Conversely, the Family Acceptance Project demonstrates that LGBTQ young adults with an increased amount of family acceptance had significantly higher levels of self-esteem, social support, and general health compared to peers with low levels of family acceptance.” Further, “National PTA shall promote and support educational programs that inform families and youth about the harmful impact of sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts and will provide a list of available resources to assist states, districts, councils and local units in planning such programs that affirm all students, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.” The statement encouraged members, “to advocate for and support legislation and policies that protect our youth from harmful, discredited programs that claim to change their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

WHEREAS, In 2020, the National PTA adopted a position statement on, “Inclusive Curricula in K-12 Education”. This statement stated that, “National PTA supports the implementation of diverse and inclusive curricula in K-12 public schools nationwide. As the largest child advocacy association in the nation, PTA is committed to the creation of innovative curricula and the necessary accompanying professional development that support culturally and linguistically-responsive teaching and learning so that the history of all students—including but not limited to African American, Latino(a), Native American, Asian and LGBTQ groups—is accurately represented and taught. Culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and inclusive curricula should:

- Emphasize academic success for all students,
- Enhance cultural competence by fostering understanding of students’ cultures,
- Promote family engagement by making connections between home language and school language, and

- Develop critical consciousness by recognizing racism, classism, and other issues in the world and developing a student's awareness to openly address these situations.

Race and diversity are important factors in teaching, learning, and family engagement. While our schools have become more racially, ethnically and economically diverse over the past decade, culturally and linguistically responsive curricula has lagged. The necessity remains for inclusive curricula in all schools” ...” National PTA supports and advocates for inclusive K-12 curricula and multicultural resources and materials to empower students and families of all backgrounds to understand themselves more effectively in relation to others. Classrooms that celebrate diverse histories and cultures break down existing barriers and create supportive and inclusive schools that encourage students to grow and learn in the safest and most empowering spaces possible.”

WHEREAS, In 2022, the National PTA Board of Directors adopted a board position statement on, “Addressing Institutional or Systemic Racism”. The statement stated that, “Institutional racism is racism embedded as a routine practice within society or an organization, cumulatively and disparately impacting historically disadvantaged peoples. Ongoing institutional racism and deeply embedded injustices, prejudices and inequities in the fabric of our nation have caused the violent deaths of innocent Black and Brown men, women and children over the years at the hands of a percentage of police officers and ordinary citizens. National PTA stands firmly against racism in all forms and the culture of oppression that permeates the United States. As an association that represents all children, we must listen, educate and advocate beyond rhetoric and rise to correct all inequities and injustices.”

WHEREAS, On February 24, 2022, The Ohio University Senate passed a resolution opposing Ohio HB 327.

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2022, Cincinnati City Council passed a resolution stating its opposition to HB 327, stating that it “furthers discrimination and targets Black, Brown, and LGBTQIA+ individuals by attempting to block important conversations and debates, especially in our educational institutions. On April 6, 2022, Cincinnati Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney introduced and passed a resolution condemning Ohio HB 454.

WHEREAS, On March 21, 2022, the Ohio Library Council, Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Mayor's Alliance, Ohio Township Association, and the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association united to release a letter stating their unified opposition to Ohio HB 327.

WHEREAS, The Trevor Project (the world's largest suicide prevention and mental health organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning (LGBTQ) youth) released the results from a 2022 poll that found that, “a majority of U.S. adults oppose blocking students from accessing LGBTQ resources and educational content on the internet at school (57%), banning books on LGBTQ topics from school libraries (56%), and banning classroom discussions about LGBTQ topics — including sexual orientation and gender identity — in school (52%). Further, a majority of adults agree that transgender minors should have access to gender-affirming hormone therapy (55%) and puberty blockers (52%) if it's recommended by their doctor and supported by their parents.”

WHEREAS, The Trevor Project released the results from their “2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health” that noted that, “LGBTQ youth who found their school to be LGBTQ-affirming reported lower rates of attempting suicide.”

WHEREAS, On April 5, 2022, The Ohio Education Association released a statement condemning Ohio HB 616, stating that the bill will, “harm students, teachers, public schools, and Ohio’s future”.

WHEREAS, On April 11, 2022, the Xavier University Student Government Association adopted a resolution condemning Ohio HB 616.

WHEREAS, On April 12, 2022, the Columbus City Schools Board of Education, Superintendent, and union leaders condemned Ohio House Bill 616 as “shameful and divisive”. They stated that this bill, “amounts to an unprecedented regulation of curriculum and instruction and an unwarranted incursion into local control. It perpetuates hate, encourages intolerance in adults, and has no place in public education” ...” Not only does the bill devalue our minority and LGBTQIA+ students and communities, but HB 616 also aims to suppress dialogue and perpetuate an inaccurate understanding of our history.”

WHEREAS, On April 15, 2022, the Akron City Council passed a resolution condemning Ohio HB 616.

WHEREAS, On April 25, 2022, the Cincinnati Public Schools passed a resolution condemning HB 616 stating that, “the bill contradicts Cincinnati schools’ equity and anti-racism policies”.

WHEREAS, in April, 2022, seven of the 25 Columbus-area companies with the most full-time employees (Honda, Bath & Body Works, Cardinal Health, AEP, Bread Financial, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Batelle), condemned Ohio House Bill 616.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we decry Ohio House Bills 322, 327, 454, 616 and legislative initiatives and governmental actions that do not honor the mission of the National PTA.

RESOLVED, We repudiate legislative efforts to humiliate, isolate, and punish transgender children and those who support them. We further repudiate efforts to stigmatize the LGBTQIA+ communities of our nation, regardless of their age.

RESOLVED, We repudiate legislative efforts that do not support and care for LGBTQIA+ youth or silences important conversations about sexual orientation, gender identity, systemic racism, anti-racism, or diversity, equity, and inclusion.

RESOLVED, We affirm our support for the enactment of laws at the local, state, and federal level that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or the expression of one’s gender identity. We support legislative, educational, and broader communal efforts that seek to end the pattern of violence against transgender people in general and transgender women in particular,

calling attention especially to the rising violence against transgender women of color and gender non-conforming people.

RESOLVED, We affirm our support of the educators, administrators, counselors, staff, healthcare professionals, mental health professionals, families, and friends who support and care for the LGBTQIA+ youth throughout Ohio.

RESOLVED, We urge all in our Ohio communities to create safe spaces and shield all people from harassment based on gender identity.

RESOLVED, We call on Ohio PTA members throughout our state (especially those in political positions of power) to contact their state representatives and denounce legislation that does not support and care for the LGBTQIA+ youth or silences important conversations about sexual orientation, gender identity, systemic racism, anti-racism, or diversity, equity, and inclusion.

RESOLVED, We call on the legislators of the state of Ohio as well as the federal government to strongly condemn these bills (and bills like these) and protect these, our children, from further harm.

RESOLVED, We direct this resolution to be sent to National PTA, the Governor of Ohio, U.S. Senators and Representatives of Ohio, the sponsors of each bill, the Ohio State Board of Education, and be communicated to all Ohio PTA members.

Resources

HB 322-Regards the teaching of certain current events, race, and sex

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-322>

HB 327-Prohibit teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-327>

HB 454-Enact the Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act

https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/hb454/IN/00/hb454_00_IN?format=pdf

HB 616-Regards promotion, teaching-divisive, inherently racist concepts

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-616>

National PTA Position Statement: Harmful Sexual Orientation and Identity Change.

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/position-statement---harmful-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-change-efforts>

National PTA Position Statement: Inclusive Curriculum in K-12 Schools.

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/position-statement-inclusive-curricula-in-k-12-education>

Poll: Majority of U.S. Adults Oppose Anti-LGBTQ Education Policies, Agree that Transgender Youth Should Have Access to Gender-Affirming Care:

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/poll-majority-of-u-s-adults-oppose-anti-lgbtq-education-policies-agree-that-transgender-youth-should-have-access-to-gender-affirming-care/>

The Trevor Project. 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health:

<https://2022survey.thetrevorproject.org/#intro>

Columbus Public Schools Condemnation of Ohio HB 616:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.10tv.com/amp/article/news/education/shameful-and-divisive-columbus-city-schools-condemns-ohio-legislation-similar-floridas-dont-say-gay-bill/530-7e6b34a1-48d7-47ec-a45b-37ffccfaf863>

Cincinnati Public Schools Condemnation of Ohio HB 616:

<https://www.fox19.com/2022/04/26/cincinnati-school-board-voted-condemn-ohio-house-bill-616-is-mason-schools-next/>

Akron City Council:

<https://www.wksu.org/government-politics/2022-04-15/akron-city-council-passes-resolution-condemning-ohios-dont-say-gay-bill>

OEA

<https://ohea.org/actions/oppose-house-bill-616/>

OSU University Senate:

https://senate.osu.edu/sites/default/files/links_files/hb327-resolution-passed%20by%20Senate.pdf

Ohio Library Council:

<https://olc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/HB-327-Local-Gov-Response-Letter-OLC-OTA-OML-OMA-OPRA-03.21.22.pdf>

City of Cincinnati

<https://www.wvxu.org/politics/2022-04-06/cincinnati-council-condemns-ohio-bill-ban-gender-affirming-care-trans-youth>

‘Discriminatory:’ Major central Ohio employers condemn, ignore HB 616.

<https://www.nbc4i.com/news/your-local-election-hq/major-central-ohio-employers-condemn-ignore-hb-616/>

Other Info

Comparison between Ohio and Florida bills:

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2022/04/05/compare-ohios-legislation-floridas-dont-say-gay-law/9468864002/>

ACLU: HB 322 and 327 will erase progress and silence people

<https://www.acluohio.org/en/news/whitewashing-history-not-answer-hb-322-and-hb-327-will-erase-progress-and-silence-people>

Childrens Defense Fund: Condemning HB 322 and 327

https://cdfohio.org/cdf_oh_blog/expose-the-boil-house-bills-322-and-327/

Equality Ohio

<https://equalityohio.org/legislation/banning-critical-race-theory-house/>

<https://equalityohio.org/legislation/dont-say-gay-dont-mention-race/>

Honesty for Ohio Education. <https://www.honestyforohioeducation.org/>

Adopted: By the Board of Directors 5/14/2022



DEFENDING
EDUCATION