

Taylor Thrush

From: Gabriel DellaVecchia <dellaveg@umich.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097 for meeting on 9/21/2021

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Gabriel DellaVecchia and I am a resident of Detroit (House District 6). I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. As a former classroom teacher, I think it is essential that educators have the freedom to discuss uncomfortable issues with their students.

Facing the sins of our past, which includes the fact that our country allowed individuals to own other humans as property, might be difficult to talk about, but it was infinitely more difficult for those souls who had to live (and often died from) those experiences. We owe it to ourselves, as a nation, to recognize the lasting harm resulting from our country's involvement in chattel slavery.

Outlawing the teaching of uncomfortable truths does not result in a more perfect union.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Gabriel DellaVecchia
631 Orleans St, Apt 88
Detroit, MI 48207

Taylor Thrush

From: Carole Hosey <carolehosey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Carole Hosey. I am a registered voter in Detroit. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I have worked in private and public schools in Michigan and it is essential that our students know the true history of this country, not to be shamed by it, but to know it to work to make this country even better. If we deny these truths, we can not improve our country for everyone.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

--

Carole Hosey, MEd
(she/her/hers)
[Why Pronouns Matter](#)

"Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They came through you but not from you, And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you." Kahlil Gibran

Taylor Thrush

From: Lori Lucas <ac1272@wayne.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:09 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Lori Lucas. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

This bill is allowing white supremacy to win again and hurts our K-12 students. Educating all students on our true history will allow all to heal and help ALL students see themselves in curriculum. I have children who are biracial and the fact that they feel inferior to their white counterparts is sad. By breaking down the historical facts, the true narrative can be told and provide a more knowledgeable and tolerable person.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Lori Lucas

Lori Lucas, Ed.S.
Lecturer
Bilingual/Bicultural Education/Teacher Education
Wayne State University
243 College of Education
5425 Gullen Mall
Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 577-0964
coe.wayne.edu

Taylor Thrush

From: Blair Arbaugh <blair.arbaugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Detroit: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

Good Afternoon,

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Blair. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

Class, race, religion, and other sensitive topics, all have a place for debate within our school system. If the legislator introducing the bill feels so strongly, maybe they should debate in public.

Thank you.

Regards,
Blair Arbaugh

Taylor Thrush

From: Marwah Ayache <marwahayache@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:41 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Marwah Ayache. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Marwah Ayache
Adult Services Intern, Bloomfield Township Library
Wayne State University MLIS/MAPH

Cell Phone: 313-421-2243
Work Phone: 248-642-5800 ext 334
Personal: marwahayache@icloud.com
School: fv2518@wayne.edu
Work: ayachema@btpl.org



Taylor Thrush

From: Dobson, Margaret (Meg) <mlekande@med.umich.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:41 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: opposing HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Meg Dobson, MD. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

As a physician, I see in my practice the impact of long standing inequities in policies and health care access and how this translates to the care of patients and the health of our community in continued disparities. We must discuss racism and race theory as part of our collective history, to truly move beyond this hateful past. Suggesting otherwise is like the ostrich with his head in the sand.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Dr M Dobson, MD

Electronic Mail is not secure, may not be read every day, and should not be used for urgent or sensitive issues

Taylor Thrush

From: R C <rpcpublic@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Richard Chang of Ypsilanti, MI. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Richard Chang

Taylor Thrush

From: J. Letaw <germanyjess@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:56 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Jessica A.S. Letaw

Taylor Thrush

From: K Grob <karri_grob@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Karri Grob. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Karri Grob

Taylor Thrush

From: Tonya Kneff-Chang <kneffchang@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Tonya Kneff-Chang. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

Our democracy thrives on open, honest discussion, and this bill is an affront to the freedoms Americans hold so dearly. The bill as written attempts to prohibit facts, rigor, critical analysis, and self-reflection, all of which are essential to learning and to becoming reasonable and humane citizens of this country. The most patriotic thing to do would be to vote against such authoritarian censorship.

As such, I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Tonya Kneff-Chang

Taylor Thrush

From: Camille Wilson <camillewilson01@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Camille Wilson. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097, which is anti-democratic and framed around false allegations and harmful misunderstandings. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history in all of its truth and fullness, including uncomfortable history -- history we all stand to learn so much from in order to accurately understand that past and gain vital insight into how we can improve everyone's future.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Camille M. Wilson, Ph.D.
Professor of Education
Ann Arbor 48103

Taylor Thrush

From: Jean McKee <jean.arbaugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 5:24 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Jean McKee. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Jean McKee

--
"I believe in kindness. Also in mischief. Also in/singing, especially when singing is not necessarily/prescribed." --Mary Oliver

Taylor Thrush

From: candy crabill <candy.crabill@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 5:36 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Candance Crabill-Klynstra. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. As an educator, I feel strongly that our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Candance L. Crabill Klynstra

Candance Crabill Klynstra
Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist
Saugatuck, MI 49453

Taylor Thrush

From: Matt Tucker <matt@boggsschool.org>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 7:22 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Matt Tucker. I am a 14 year veteran public school teacher. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. We teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Matt Tucker

--
Matt Tucker
Pronouns: he/him/his
6-8 Special Education (Tue, Thur, Fri)
The James and Grace Lee Boggs School

Taylor Thrush

From: Jennifer Heymoss <j.y.hey Moss@gmail.com >
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 8:52 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Jennifer Heymoss. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I cannot express how important it is that policy is not used to censor history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Heymoss

Taylor Thrush

From: Sharyl Weber <shariinmichigan@mac.com >
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:01 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Shari Weber. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Shari Weber
269-578-3929
6421 Trundel Lane
Kalamazoo MI 49009

Sent from my iPhone

Taylor Thrush

From: Ashley Drenth <ashley.l.drenth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:10 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Ashley Drenth. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Ashley Drenth

Taylor Thrush

From: Bridget Timmeney <b.timmeney@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:13 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Bridget Timmeney. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I was fortunate to have parents that exposed me to the historical accounts of indigenous people, black people, migrant workers and others who were part of our U.S. history. All students should be afforded this rich and full history to truly understand our country's origins, lessons learned and the value of all our people.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Bridget Timmeney

Taylor Thrush

From: Deborah Rosenman <drosenman2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:16 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Debbie Rosenman. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I have been a long-time educator, having taught fourth and fifth grade for over 40 years before I retired two years ago. I taught my students about the bravery of our forefathers to start our country, write the constitution and the brilliance of our early inventors in the Industrial Revolution. But in studying Michigan history, they also learned about what happened to the native Three Fires tribes and the Huron as Michigan became a state and their land and culture were lost. My students studied the horrors of slavery when learning about a cause of the Civil War. How do we teach history without pointing out the positive and negative actions in our past? We must teach ALL the stories in our history or we will never learn from the past to make the future better.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Debbie Rosenman

Taylor Thrush

From: Erin Arwady <erin.arwady@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:16 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Erin Arwady and I live in Kalamazoo, MI. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I am a parent of two school age children (6 and almost 10; 1st and 4th respectively) who attend Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS), one of the most diverse school districts in the state. My husband and I intentionally chose it because we wanted our children to go to diverse schools and interact with children from all walks of life. HB 5097 would deny 64% of my children's non white classmates to learn about the very history that has shaped their life experience up to this point. We live in an incredibly complex and diverse world. To deprive children of all of our country's history and only expose them to the whitewashed version that HB 5097 proposes to support will leave our children ill equipped to deal with such a complex world.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Erin Arwady

Taylor Thrush

From: Bryan Heany <admin@37ent.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:25 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

My name is Bryan Heany. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss all topics and views on history. There is not just one side to the historical record. As a citizen I am tired of hearing about government attempts to limit scholarship in classrooms.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Bryan Heany

--
Bryan Heany - Owner, 37.ENT LLC
269.568.0150 - He/Him/His
Admin@ www.37ENT.com

Taylor Thrush

From: Anitra White <anitrawhiteunlimited@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:30 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Anitra White. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Anitra S. White

Taylor Thrush

From: Jill Ackerman <ackerman.jill@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:30 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Please vote no on HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Jill Braman. As an elementary school teacher and mother, I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Jill Ackerman Braman

Taylor Thrush

From: Maribeth Henry <maribethahenry@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:32 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Maribeth Henry. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

It is essential that we continue to teach our historic truths in order to not fall back into failed systems that affect the lives, identities, and progress of minority populations (including myself, my husband and my 3 elementary aged biracial children).

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Maribeth Henry

Taylor Thrush

From: Alyssa Moon <alyssa.k.moon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:35 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Alyssa Moon. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Moon

Taylor Thrush

From: Kareen Webber <smilingkareen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Kareen Webber. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

There should be no issue with teaching the truth about the history of our country.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Kareen Webber

Taylor Thrush

From: Regena F Nelson <regena.fails.nelson@wmich.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:39 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Regena Nelson. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

As a teacher educator, I prepare prospective teachers to present accurate information to our students and give the the skills to help K-12 use this information to become engaged citizens that protect our democracy. This bill will have a detrimental impact on our society by perpetuating stereotypes and incomplete picture of our history as a nation.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Regena Nelson, Ph.D.
Professor, Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies
Director, Urban Teacher Residency Program
269-387-3437
she/her/hers

Taylor Thrush

From: Monique Yoder <monique.yoder@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:41 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Monique Yoder, and I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. This is a bill that, quite frankly, I hoped would be a bill that only other states would bring to their legislative bodies -- not Michigan. As a state that holds a decentralized education system, I am surprised that political leaders in our state are proposing a bill that would restrict teachers' agency to design and implement curriculum that serves to help our children and young adults become individuals who understand the full picture of why and how we find ourselves where we are today based on the events, actions, and decisions that have taken in the past. These historical events are not isolated blips on a timeline. Rather, these events are bound to the social, political, economic, and environmental factors present during the time of the events. The Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, the Equal Employment Act of 1972, and the American Disabilities Act of 1990, and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that legalized same-sex marriage at a national level in 2015 did not occur randomly. They were the culmination of what real people were experiencing in their lives, workplaces, and community spaces as a result of legal practices and social attitudes toward people based on race, gender, ability, and sexual orientation. Conversations among students and with their teacher(s) in a social studies classroom about these watershed moments in our nation's history require an open and honest sense of inquiry, which include reading texts, listening to audio, and viewing photos or audio-visual images that come from primary sources that reflect the actual thoughts and practices of people at the time and actual thoughts on those topics by people of our own time. Undoubtedly, some of these resources will include information and language that may present or be construed as a racial or gender stereotype, especially speeches, narratives, letters, and other primary source information that uses language of a former time or represents people's actual thoughts, whether politically correct or not. This does not mean that these resources are not valuable. They just require a level of critical thinking and ability to enter information with an open mind on the part of our children and young adults, two skills that serve them not only in K-12 education but also their future work and life.

Unfortunately, primary source resources that could help students better understand the world they live in and why we, as a collective society, live in the world that we do may not be able to comply with the language proposed in HB 5097 that states that "*core academic curriculum must not, in any way, include any form of race or gender stereotyping or anything that could be understood as implicit race or gender stereotyping.*" I don't believe that teachers across the disciplines of math, social studies, language arts, and science select these materials to reinforce or propagate stereotypes. Quite the opposite -- they select materials based on relevancy and ability to help make ideas and connections between ideas most noticeable to students. By adopting this bill, the Michigan House would essentially be pre-determining what a teacher can and cannot include in their curricula and lessons. By adopting this bill, the Michigan House would be restricting students' opportunities to talk about tough topics of race and gender in a classroom environment with professional educators to help them make sense of the complicated past and reality they find themselves in now.

As a product of our Michigan K-12 system, I am grateful for the classroom conversations on race and gender that took place in Mr. Chuck Jager's AP U.S. History class when I was a sophomore at Lakeshore High School in Stevensville, MI. I am grateful for my teacher's encouragement to read Alex Kotlowitz's 1998 book *The Other Side of the River*, taking field trips to historical places in a neighboring town, Benton Harbor, and attending community talks on local history to better understand the racial and economic disparity present in Berrien County's two biggest cities, St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. Those experiences helped me see my community and the world outside of myself. They also allowed me to look within myself to question and think critically about my place in society and what my gender and skin color afford or do not afford me in society. I can't imagine the adult I am today without a public education system that encourages, not discourages, teachers to help students to think critically about the world, no matter how difficult or uncomfortable the topic.

As I close this letter, I ask that members of the House Education Committee revisit the Michigan Department of Education's vision and mission in their discussion on HB 5097. MDE's vision reads, "Every learner in Michigan's public schools will have an inspiring, engaging, and caring learning environment that fosters **creative and critical thinkers** who believe in their ability to positively influence Michigan and the world beyond." MDE's mission reads, "Support learning and learners." These statements are what drive the MDE's ten-year strategic plan to make Michigan schools a top ten school. As written, this bill is not in spirit or alignment with this vision and mission of the MDE. As such, I ask the Committee to not give this bill any further legislative consideration. Let us support our children and young adults by maintaining agency for our teachers to make and implement curricula that serve to foster students' creative and critical thinking as citizens and individuals who can make Michigan and the world beyond a more positive place.

For these reasons above, I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Monique Yoder
Michigan Resident

--

Monique Yoder
MA TESOL / MA Language Testing

Taylor Thrush

From: J. Fox <jafws@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:42 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB5097

To All Members of the House Education Committee:

I write to you today in **opposition to HB 5097**. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge all members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Judy Fox
Kalamazoo

Taylor Thrush

From: Anoushka Soares <anoushaksoares@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:57 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Anoushka Soares. I am a senior at Portage Central High School. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

The core idea around critical race theory is that racism is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also something embedded in legal systems and policies. The history of redlining is a perfect example of this and remains a major factor in today's wealth gap between black and white families across the country. To prohibit critical race theory in public school curriculum would be to both deny and excuse the economic, educational, and social disparities caused by institutional racism.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Anoushka Soares

Taylor Thrush

From: Lauren McMullan <laurenanderton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:01 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Lauren McMullan. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. In the news today bills like this one resulted in a school district banning books telling the stories of Rosa Parks, Malala, and featuring the stories of individuals with the exact traits we want espoused, but whose stories have been suppressed or flat out hidden or stolen.

As a parent in Portage, MI with 3 elementary aged children, a librarian, and a former educator I deeply oppose the perpetuation of refusal to address the hard parts of history; the realities of sexism and racism in our country throughout history and now; and the addressal of these things within the walls are children are meant to be educated on how to be responsible, informed, and compassionate citizens. All of these things can be taught in age-appropriate and humanizing ways.

Teaching stereotypes of the past, and stereotypes our students observe now, helps contextualize those times and these. It helps them talk about how we have improved, and where work still needs to be done. It validates many of the lived experiences and histories of the majority of our students (girls and children of color) rather than just requiring them to find themselves in the narratives of a predominantly monolithic flavor of individual.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Lauren McMullan

Taylor Thrush

From: Shibani Kanungo <shibs5@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:02 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Shibani. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Shibani

Taylor Thrush

From: Deb Freiman <deb.freiman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:03 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Debby Freiman. I live and vote in Portage Michigan. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. Understanding history and our mistakes helps us understand people. This helps us build community and improves conditions for all of us. Think of the prosperity we will have when we all come together without misinformation campaigns planting mistrust and hatred. It's time we accept the discomfort of how we have treated non-whites and begin to heal our nation.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Debby Freiman
Portage, MI

Sent from my iPhone

Taylor Thrush

From: Nicki Poer <nickipoer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:03 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Nicole Poer. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

By not teaching the truth about the history of the United States, for example, implicit bias and white dominant culture will continue to perpetuate racism and the cycle continues. Critical Race Theory is not new. Let Michigan be a leader in the future of education instead of getting locked in the past.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Nicole Poer (Kalamazoo, MI)

she/her/hers (What's this?)

LEARNER | ACHIEVER | DEVELOPER | INDIVIDUALIZATION | CONNECTEDNESS

I'm currently reading...

[Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance](#)

Taylor Thrush

From: neelkamal soares <neelsoares@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:09 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Neel Soares from Portage, MI. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

The institutional racism that has plagued our country and led to systematic inequities in our society need to be learned by our youth to rectify the mistakes of our predecessors.

Those who fail to learn from the errors of our past are doomed to repeat them.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Neel Soares

Taylor Thrush

From: anne hensley <hensleyanne@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:07 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Anne Hensley. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

We have not, as a country, begun to scrutinize the devastating impacts of our shared history of white supremacist enslavement, Jim Crow, redlining, segregation in schools, and our racialized carceral state. These and myriad other intentional methods of institutional violence must be studied so that their impacts may be transformed — through education and reparations — into equity and, ultimately, liberty for us all.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Anne Hensley

Anne Hensley
Writer / editor / musician / co-founder, RAWK

weirderwonderland.com

I'm reading *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead. How about you?

Taylor Thrush

From: Marissa Harrington <klacgyrl09@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:19 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Marissa Harrington. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

We have not, as a country, begun to scrutinize the devastating impacts of our shared history of white supremacist enslavement, Jim Crow, redlining, segregation in schools, and our racialized carceral state. These and myriad other intentional methods of institutional violence must be studied so that their impacts may be transformed — through education and reparations — into equity and, ultimately, liberty for us all.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Marissa Harrington

Taylor Thrush

From: Lofton Durham <loftydurham@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:21 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Lofton Durham. I write to you today in fierce opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. It is un-American to legislate against fields of knowledge and to "ban" the teaching of any topic. I am quite surprised that any public servant of any political party would consider such interference within their job description.

I am also quite doubtful that any House legislator is actually conversant with what critical race theory is, and how it has helped structure the last 60 years of civil rights legislation. The framework of critical legal theory, of which critical race theory is only a part, looks at the *outcomes of the rules we write, not just the intention*. It is this crucial piece that allows us to actually improve the lives of all citizens.

We must look clearly at the historical harms and how those harms have consequences for our fellow Americans today--surely we all want to have a country, and a state, that takes account of every person, values their contributions, and enables them to achieve their goals.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Lofton Durham
1308 Hillcrest Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-343-0445

Taylor Thrush

From: Paul McMullan <mcmullan.paul@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written testimony against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Paul McMullan. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

It is unsettling to read as an adult the less comfortable aspects of US history and the length and breadth of the US slave trade and its impact on the colonies and America today. I've learned as an adult a great deal of things that were brushed over or outright ignored in my school instruction. Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to our nation's history and children should be taught all aspects of our history, even those which are less flattering to our national perception/myth.

A great deal of people discuss patriotism in reference to this bill, arguing that it's unpatriotic to teach the full history. I believe true patriotism is best served knowing our best and working to a better future rather than promoting a false narrative that will eventually crumble into disillusionment.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Taylor Thrush

From: Emmy Kastner <kastner.emmy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

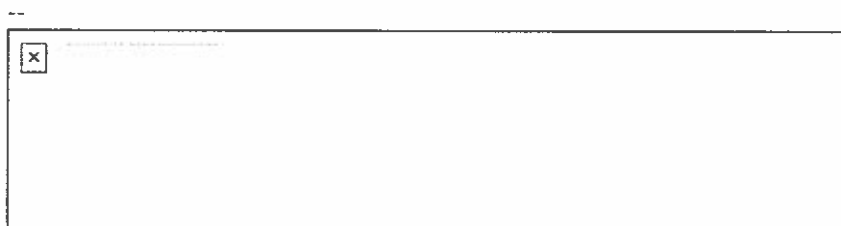
To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Emmy Kastner. I'm a mother, educator, and author/illustrator of children's books. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. We can (AND MUST) talk about hard things, which will lead to better things—stronger students, stronger communities, and stronger schools all rooted in empathy.

To truly serve all students in a genuinely equitable way, we must be honest about the past and intentional in addressing the devastating impacts of our shared history. That is essential learning.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Emmy Kastner



Emmy Kastner
she/her/hers
author/illustrator of children's books
www.emmykmakes.com

Taylor Thrush

From: Ryan Gage <ryungage8@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:40 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Ryan Gage. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

We have not, as a country, begun to scrutinize the devastating impacts of our shared history of white supremacist enslavement, Jim Crow, redlining, segregation in schools, and our racialized carceral state. These and myriad other intentional methods of institutional violence must be studied so that their impacts may be transformed — through education and reparations — into equity and, ultimately, liberty for us all.

--Ryan Gage

Taylor Thrush

From: Rick Freiman <richard.freiman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:47 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Rick Freiman. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

Knowledge of history is important in preventing the repeat of mistakes, by understanding what led up to the mistakes in the first place.

Do not put our kids into historical darkness. Our society needs people who can understand each other and what brought us to where we are.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Rick Freiman - Portage MI
815.871.7424 (voice & text)
richard.freiman@gmail.com
Sent from iPhone

Taylor Thrush

From: Susan V Piazza <susan.piazza@wmich.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:48 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Susan V. Piazza. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

It is not acceptable to ban the teaching of historically significant events.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Susan V. Piazza

Sent from my iPad

Taylor Thrush

From: Robin Oesterwind <roesterwind@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:47 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Robin Oesterwind. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

We have not, as a country, begun to scrutinize the devastating impacts of our shared history of white supremacist enslavement, Jim Crow, redlining, segregation in schools, and our racialized carceral state. These and myriad other intentional methods of institutional violence must be studied so that their impacts may be transformed — through education and reparations — into equity and, ultimately, liberty for us all.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Robin Oesterwind

--
Robin Oesterwind

Roesterwind@gmail.com | 734.564.0252
nothingtoowitty.wordpress.com

'Hope will never be silent.' -H. Milk

Taylor Thrush

From: Suzanne Weeldreyer <sdayweeldreyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:53 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Suzanne Weeldreyer. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

It is only through the study of all of our history that we can hope to forge a better future for all citizens of this country. Please don't deny students the opportunity to well educated citizens.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Weeldreyer

--

Suzanne Day Weeldreyer
sdayweeldreyer@gmail.com

Taylor Thrush

From: Alisa Lindsay <alishyu@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:58 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Alisa Lindsay, mother of 3 public school students and wife of a teacher. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, including uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Alisa Lindsay
Portage, MI

Taylor Thrush

From: Tristan H <tristanhenry@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:02 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Tristan Henry. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. This history has only been made uncomfortable due to the narrow lens by which it has been viewed.

In order for our children to be better citizens, they must be provided adequate tools to cope with the "color filled" world around them. The world is not just made up of white people and savages, yet our history books present it in that manner. It is the contribution of many races and cultures that make our country beautiful.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Tristan Henry

Taylor Thrush

From: Brooke Smith <brookemarikosmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:05 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Brooke Smith. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

It is imperative to teach our children the full story of American history and to teach them to think critically about it.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Brooke Smith

brookem.smith@wmich.edu

<https://wmich.webex.com/meet/brookem.smith>

Taylor Thrush

From: Rachel Kain <rachelkain@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:21 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Rachel Kain. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I don't believe that it is the role of the government or the state or local school board, to determine how to teach the history of this country. Despite being a white citizen of a "sundown" town (Livonia) that previously gained notoriety for being "the whitest city in America," I believe it's vitally important to teach our children about the legacy of systemic forces at play in creating the inequity that still persists between whites and persons of color, no matter their national or ethnic origin. We will never overcome racism through colorblindness or denial. We will only overcome it when we choose to confront it and dismantle it. The first step is ALWAYS education.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Rachel Kain

--an active registered voter

Taylor Thrush

From: amy adams <a_lynne76@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:44 PM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Testimony against hb 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Amy Adams. I am a public school teacher.

I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Amy L Adams

We have not, as a country, begun to scrutinize the devastating impacts of our shared history of white supremacist enslavement, Jim Crow, redlining, segregation in schools, and our racialized carceral state. These and myriad other intentional methods of institutional violence must be studied so that their impacts may be transformed — through education and reparations — into equity and, ultimately, liberty for us all.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Taylor Thrush

From: Judy Puhl <judy.puhl61@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:11 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Judy Puhl. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely, Judy Puhl

Taylor Thrush

From: sarah van eck <sarahvaneck@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 5:51 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: against hb 5097

Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Sarah Van Eck. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Sarah VanEck

Taylor Thrush

From: Rose Hamway <drsrosejeff@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 6:36 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Rose Hamway. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rose Hamway

Taylor Thrush

From: Sandy Foster <fostersandym@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 6:57 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Sandy Foster. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Sandy Foster

Taylor Thrush

From: Mary McCreddie <mccreadie52@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:01 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Mary McCreddie. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

government restrictions on what can be taught in school bring uncomfortable reminders of dictatorships trying to control their people. This is unAmericasn.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Mary McCreddie

Taylor Thrush

From: Jennie Macy <jennie.ml.macy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:17 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Jennie Macy. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Jennie Macy
22246 Edgewater
Novi, MI 48375

Taylor Thrush

From: Laurie Nic <laurienic7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:19 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Please stop HB 5097

My name is Laurie Nic. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Laurie Nic

Taylor Thrush

From: Emily Keith <emmilies5@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:33 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written testimony against HB 5097 to the members of the house education committee

My name is Emily Keith. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I don't believe that it is the role of the government or the state or local school board, to determine how to teach the history of this country. Despite being a white citizen of a "sundown" town (Livonia) that previously gained notoriety for being "the whitest city in America," I believe it's vitally important to teach our children about the legacy of systemic forces at play in creating the inequity that still persists between whites and persons of color, no matter their national or ethnic origin. We will never overcome racism through colorblindness or denial. We will only overcome it when we choose to confront it and dismantle it. The first step is ALWAYS education.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Emily Keith

Taylor Thrush

From: M Gretta Hoekstra Terrentine <mgterrentine@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:34 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written testimony against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Margaret Hoekstra. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I live and work in Michigan & have a son in middle school and a daughter in college in Michigan.

We have not, as a country, begun to scrutinize the devastating impacts of our shared history of white supremacist enslavement, Jim Crow, redlining, segregation in schools, and our racialized carceral state. These and myriad other intentional methods of institutional violence must be studied so that their impacts may be transformed — through education and reparations — into equity and, ultimately, liberty for us all.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Margaret Hoekstra

Taylor Thrush

From: Kayla M. Schuster <kmschust@SVSU.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:35 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Kayla Smith. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Kayla Smith

Taylor Thrush

From: Beth Banner <bethbanner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:37 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Bethany Banner. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Bethany Banner
Kalamazoo, MI

Taylor Thrush

From: Kathleen Crawford-McKinney <kmcrawf@wayne.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:37 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: URGENT! Provide testimony against a bill that would ban critical race theory

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Kathleen Crawford-McKinney. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

As a faculty member in the College of Education at Wayne State University, where I teach courses in literacy education courses, specifically, children's literature - my goal is to provide our future and current teachers with multiple texts to examine different events from different perspectives. Historically, the purpose of education in the United States has been to encourage participation in the democratic process (Lincoln, 1995). If this is true, where are the voices of the oppressed in schools? It's time to figure out what to do in classrooms in order to create an environment where learners can have a significant say in what affects their lives.

Living within a democracy means that decisions are not made by the few privileged people in domination, but the entire community. Shannon (1993) believes that in a democracy people participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives. But he also argues that currently people in power influence decisions for all people. All citizens control the government equally and collectively. Noddings (1992) states that "democracy is not the outcome of a common set of words and customs, rather it is an achievement--one that depends on the desire to communicate and the goodwill to persist in a collaborative inquiry" (p. 164).

Baker (1966) asserts that, "Schooling must be what education would be in a society with an integrated culture where all the institutions of society were freely participated in by all [people] and served the full development of human personalities. In other words, schooling must be what education would be in a truly democratic society." (pp. 133-134). Students, teachers, administrators, and the community need to listen to each other and negotiate the important beliefs about education in such a way that each person's voice is heard and valued.

Fine (1987), examined the silencing of classroom and school talk in a low-income, "low-skill" high school. She states:
If the process of education is to allow children, adolescents, and adults their voices--to read, write, create, critique, and transform--how can we justify the institutionalizing of silence at the level of policies which obscure systemic problems behind a rhetoric of "excellence" and progress," a curriculum bereft of the lived experiences of students themselves, a pedagogy organized around control and not conversation, and a thoroughgoing psychologizing of social issues which enables [students] to bury herself in silence and not be noticed? (p. 172)

Edelsky (1994) states "Education for bringing about democracy would aim at helping put an end to the systems of domination that create the condition we have now --a condition of decidedly unequal influence over who gets what" (p. 254). Just as democratic decision making needs to be in place in a political arena, so do classrooms need teachers, students and the local community working together to create a collaborative and democratic curriculum.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Baker, M.C. (1966). *Foundations of John Dewey's educational theory*.

Edelsky, C. (1994). *Education for democracy*.

Fine, M. (1987). *Silencing in public schools*

Lincoln, Y. (1995). *In search of students' voices*

Noddings, N. (1992). *The challenge to care in schools*. New York: Teachers College Press. Columbia University.

Shannon, P. (1993). *Developing democratic voices*.

Dr. Kathleen Crawford-McKinney
Literacy & Language Program Coordinator
Reading, Language and Literature Program
Teacher Education Division
College of Education
Wayne State University

Worlds of Words
Center of Global Literacies and Literatures
Executive Board Member
<https://wowlit.org/>



Wayne State's mission is to create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities.

Taylor Thrush

From: Melissa Ludwa <mludwa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:53 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. Historically accurate information is critical to understanding human behavior in the past so that we may build a better future. I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Melissa

--
Melissa Ludwa, M.S.Ed.
Early Childhood Music Specialist
Music Together® Certification Level II Instructor
Melissa@crescendoacademy.com
call or text [\(317\)506-0456](tel:3175060456)

Taylor Thrush

From: Katy Cranston <katylcranston@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:59 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Kathryn DiMeggio. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

In fact, in order to fight racism and make our country more able to live up to its noble principles, we must teach and learn about how we have failed in the past. We owe it to ourselves and our future citizens to always strive to make our country better and more just for everyone.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Katy Cranston DiMeggio
Livonia, Michigan

Katy Cranston DiMeggio, LMSW
248-704-0172
KatyCranstonMSW@gmail.com

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message is confidential, intended only for the named recipient(s) and may contain information that is privileged, or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient(s), you are notified that the dissemination, distribution or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you receive this message in error, or are not the named recipient(s), please notify the sender at the e-mail address. Delete this e-mail from your computer, and destroy any copies in any form immediately. Thank you.

Taylor Thrush

From: Sara Russo <sara.russo23@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 8:16 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Sara Russo. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I believe it's vitally important to teach our children about the legacy of systemic forces at play in creating the inequity that still persists between whites and persons of color, no matter their national or ethnic origin. We will never overcome racism through colorblindness or denial. We will only overcome it when we choose to confront it and dismantle it. The first step is always education.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,
Sara Russo

Taylor Thrush

From: Lester, Kathy <KathyL@mimame.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 6:40 AM
To: Taylor Thrush
Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

As librarians, we are concerned about House Bill 5097.

Educators work to equip students with the tools they need to be successful global citizens, including critical thinking skills, the ability to understand multiple perspectives, and clear knowledge of the foundations on which our country was built. Students deserve to have a complete picture of the laws, historical events, practices and policies that have shaped not only this country, but the world.

In its publication "Strengthening the Republic," the National Council for the Social Studies outlines proven practices for teaching the subject. These include providing instruction in government, history, law, and democracy and incorporating discussion of current local, national, and international issues and events in the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important to their lives. HB 5097 would prevent teachers from fully utilizing these foundational elements of civics education.

School librarians teach students to critically evaluate information in all forms. HB5097 would hinder the ability of educators to give students historical facts and information, in effect banning information. Censorship of information is dangerous and violates the principles of the library profession, as well as those of a functioning democracy. We are also concerned that educators may self-censor appropriate historical lessons on the Civil War and slavery, Jim Crow laws, the Civil Rights movement, etc. out of concern for complaints related to HB 5097.

Librarians across the profession - in K-12 schools and public and academic institutions - believe that all patrons should be treated fairly and all voices should be heard and celebrated. We work to provide collections that serve as both "mirrors and windows" for patrons, mirroring their lived experiences and providing windows to help readers understand what it's like for people who don't share their race, religion, culture, socio-economic status, identity, and life experiences.

We urge the members of the committee to vote against HB5097.

Sincerely,

Michigan Association for Media in Education Board Members

Shannon Torres, President

Cat Kerns, Past-President

Erica Trowbridge, President-Elect

Teri Belcher, Executive Secretary

Kelly Hincks, Secretary

Lisa Kelley, Treasurer

Amanda Davies, VP of Regions and SIGS

Carrie Betts, VP of Continuing Education

Martha Spear, Intellectual Freedom Chair

Kathy Lester, MLIS, MA

Advocacy Chair, Past-President 2014,

Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME) President-Elect, 2021-2022 American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Councilor At Large American Library Association (ALA) School Library Media Specialist / Technology Coach, East Middle School, Plymouth-Canton Schools

SL21 Model Library, 2017-2018

SL21 Exemplary Ranking - Michigan School Libraries for the 21st Century 2019-2022 ISTE Making IT Happen Award Winner

2017 MAME Michigan School Library Program of the Year

2012 State Librarian's Excellence Award Winner

kathyL@mimame.org <mailto:kathyL@mimame.org>

twitter: @LibraryL

<<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FLibraryL&data=04%7C01%7Ctthrush%40house.mi.gov%7C200f2934d30747280dfb08d97cec2684%7C2d22da34df4044e581670c9860b4a3a9%7C1%7C0%7C637678176561234437%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=Tlv7aHnwI6AON9ZmkH%2FB%2FOFsvOn0HESU%2B1I34nUsLXQ%3D&reserved=0>>
810.333.5873

<https://docs.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1LCEX1cwr7RQSTsQlcHLuXZXXaD_EfvSI&revid=0B3tD6KRjbKHidUgvM1RCcHhGdWpkaWR5UWILT3RjT0Q0SFJnPQ>

"Every school librarian is a leader; every learner has a school librarian"

--American Association of School Librarians

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