

## RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER TO ENGAGE WITH THE OHIO LEGISLATURE REGARDING HOUSE BILL 616

**WHEREAS**, HB 616, introduced April 4, 2022, by state Reps. Jean Schmidt and Mike Loychik prohibits schools from “teaching or providing training that promotes or endorses divisive or inherently racist concepts.” That includes critical race theory and *The New York Times*’ 1619 Project on slavery and Black Americans’ contributions to U.S. history. The bill also limits discussion and instruction that include topics of sexuality and gender identity. And according to U.S. Deputy Commerce Secretary Don Graves, this type of legislation could hurt Ohio commerce.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, according to HB 616, the board of education of each school district shall be the sole authority in determining and selecting all of the following to be used in the schools under its control: (1) Textbooks, pursuant to section 3329.08 of the Revised Code, and reading lists; (2) Instructional materials; (3) Academic curriculum. (B) The board of education of each school district may permit educators to create instructional materials, including textbooks, that are consistent with the curriculum adopted by the district board for use in the educators’ classrooms. The school district board shall not select any textbook, instructional material, or academic curriculum that promotes any divisive or inherently racist concept described in section 3313.6029 of the Revised Code.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, HB 616 prohibits “Divisive or inherently racist concepts” including all of the following: (a) Critical race theory; (b) Intersectional theory; (c) The 1619 project; (d) Diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes; (e) Inherited racial guilt; (f) Any other concept that the state board of education defines as divisive or inherently racist. Further, HB 616 establishes licensure and funding penalties for noncompliance.<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, According to Equality Ohio, the legislation, sponsored by Reps. Jean Schmidt and Mike Loychik, is so broad that it could censor regular conversations about the experiences and families of LGBTQ+ Ohioans, even at high schools.<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, with support from the Board of Health (BOH), FCPH adopted in its agency-wide Strategic Plan, one goal of “Equity” as the foundation for conducting the agency’s daily work and as its north star; in 2019 convened a Health Equity Committee; and in May of 2020, declared Racism a Public Health Crisis, while enacting a Health and Equity in All Policies policy.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbc4i.com/news/investigates/hb-616-could-hurt-ohios-economy-federal-commerce-official-says/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://search-](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/hb616/IN/00/hb616_00_IN?format=pdf)

[prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general\\_assembly\\_134/bills/hb616/IN/00/hb616\\_00\\_IN?format=pdf](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/hb616/IN/00/hb616_00_IN?format=pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ohea.org/cms/assets/uploads/2022/04/HB616-Bill-Summary-OEA-GR-202204061.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://equalityohio.org/legislation/dont-say-gay-dont-mention-race/>

Now, therefore, upon motion of Board Member \_\_, second by Board Member \_\_;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH, BOARD MEMBERS;

1. That the Health Commissioner is authorized to engage with members of the Ohio House and Ohio Senate from Franklin County to align local efforts with statewide working groups in Ohio.
2. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Voting Aye Thereon:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Board Members  
Franklin County Board of Health

Voting Nay Thereon:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Board Members  
Franklin County Board of Health