

RESOLUTION NO. 67-2022 (CRR), *First Reading*

By Council President Hart

A Resolution expressing this Council's opposition to proposed Ohio House Bill 616; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, House Bill 616, introduced by the Ohio General Assembly on April 4, 2022, seeks to amend and enact sections of the Revised Code regarding the promotion and teaching of divisive or racist concepts in Ohio's public schools; and

WHEREAS, far from eliminating racism and discrimination, House Bill 616 would perpetuate racism and discrimination by severely limiting the ability of K-12 teachers to talk with students about racism, sexual orientation, gender identity and diversity, equity and inclusion, and would censor and chill classroom discussions on these subjects; and

WHEREAS, specifically, House Bill 616 is poorly written, broadly and vaguely censoring "diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes" and "any other concept that the state board of education defines as divisive or inherently racist"; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 616 is opposed by the only licensed educator currently on the Ohio Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, this Council is concerned that HB 616 seeks to limit candid conversations about race and gender identity in our schools and that it attempts to erase and exclude LGBTQ+, Black, brown, Indigenous, Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islanders and other historically marginalized people from the classroom,

WHEREAS, the broad, open-ended ban on race and gender-related topics constitutes an attack on the freedom to learn of every young person in Ohio and deprives them of a well-rounded education, puts Ohio's most vulnerable students in unsafe and unwelcoming classrooms, and may exacerbate a mental health crisis that already exists within our schools and community in the wake of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2003, the City of Cleveland Heights was the first municipality in the country to adopt a Domestic Partnership Registry through a ballot initiative, and prides itself on being a community which is welcoming to all persons and families; and

WHEREAS, this bill does not represent the values of this Council and the Cleveland Heights Community; and

WHEREAS, this Council urges state legislators to return to their traditional "home rule" stance by not imposing their cultural agenda onto our community.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council strongly opposes Ohio House Bill 616, as it believes its local teachers and administrators are best qualified to make decisions regarding the appropriateness of instructional materials and techniques in our local classrooms.

SECTION 2. The Clerk of Council is directed to forward this resolution to the Speaker of the Ohio House Representatives as well as the Cleveland Heights University Heights Board of Education.

SECTION 3. Notice of passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 4. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to express its opposition to House Bill 616 on a timely basis. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.



MELODY JOY HART
President of the Council



CRAIG COBB
Clerk of Council, Pro Tem

PASSED: June 6, 2022

Presented to Mayor: June 7, 2022

Approved: June 7, 2022



KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor