To Whom It May Concern:

After having pursued the proposed curriculum for Grades K-12 in Ohio, *American Birthright*, I would offer my support for its adoption and therefore a positive committee report. This curriculum objectively and accurately represents the historical foundations of the American Colonies and the United States, beginning with ancient influences and continuing through the current period. The requirements of the curriculum are well selected and based on primary source readings. I especially noted the ancient roots of Western Civilization in Israel (Hebrew religion, law, polity that have been transmitted to America over the centuries), the rise of Christianity and its crucial influence on Western culture of the Middle Ages, the early modern and especially English ideas and practices that have played an important role in the Colonial and in the Founders' political theory and institutional development, and the influences of other ideas and practices that have opposed these ideas (which I consider crucial as well, since we have seen in recent decades a tendency to undermine the "American Ideal").

In summary I would highly recommend the passage of this bill, for the good of all Ohio students.

Sincerely, Marc A. Clauson, JD, PhD Professor of History, Law and Honors Cedarville University Cedarville, Ohio <u>clausonm@cedarville.edu</u>