



We are writing to express support for the principles of Ohio HB 103 in its current legislation language. It is vital for our nation's schoolchildren to learn about the founding ideals, enduring values, and moral achievements of the world's oldest constitutional democracy and representative republic. We stand with President Abraham Lincoln who proclaimed to Congress in the midst of the bloody Civil War that our nation is still "the last best hope of Earth." Ohio's youth deserve to know such words of liberty.

As the United States of America approaches its 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, educational report after educational report outlines in stark detail how badly K-12 students are performing on U.S. history and civics examinations. They lack foundational knowledge. And, increasingly, they are taught ideologically biased theories that reject the "American experiment" as fatally flawed in conception and practice. We support teaching "hard history," including the vileness of chattel slavery, but we also call for a balanced, nonpartisan, evidence-based approach to civics education. The guiding principles of Ohio HB 103 promise such a curriculum. And, equally important, the legislation proposes to bring together well-informed Ohio parents, school administrators, classroom teachers, and curriculum designers to develop the state's revised K-12 social studies standards as a shared responsibility.

We write you on behalf of Common Sense Society (CSS), a Washington, DC nonprofit that promotes the principles of liberty, prosperity, and beauty. Our policy objectives support a vision of "a renewed Western civilization in which children flourish, families thrive, business compete, art endures, nature is stewarded, religion is free, nations are sovereign, and peace reigns."

We write you as two educators—an economist, and a literary scholar—who have written extensively about American culture and values. In recent years, one of us awarded more than \$500 million in federal funding in support of humanities organizations and humanists, including K-12 teachers, university professors, and individual scholars. Together, we now run CSS's American Civics Project.

CSS created the American Civics Project as a series of free, interlocking, supplementary K-12 lesson plans that integrate anthropology, economics, politics, and history into civics lessons. Each curricular module includes tools, such as student assignments and classroom activities, and examines the evolution of human cooperation alongside the development of the principles of liberty, prosperity, and the pursuit of happiness. These topics align well with Ohio HB 103 and its call for a renewed patriotism through the study of "the original texts of documents of the United States and the state of Ohio."

We commend the Ohio House of Representatives for its focus on this crucial educational matter. The future prosperity of any state is inseparable from having an informed populace.

With the highest regards,

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