

Testimony of Craig Rhyne, President of Freedom Education Foundation

In favor of H.B. No. 103 – To Establish Ohio Social Studies Standards Task Force

Tuesday May 2, 2023 4pm

Representing the Freedom Education Foundation, I heartily endorse the adoption of the “American Birthright” Civics Education Model and H.B. 103.

Teaching accurate history is of paramount importance in our schools, especially since anti-American propaganda has increasingly infected most of our schools over the last 30 years. The focus has been on the sins of our fathers rather than on the brilliance of the Founders to establish a republic, with a constitution that protects minority rights and equal justice before the law.

While our Founders and other predecessors were imperfect people, they created the amazing United States of America out of 13 disparate colonies. The eternal theme of liberty—in religion and in every aspect of our lives—established an exceptional country. This has inspired people all over the world.

The Founders knew there would be injustices and cultural changes, so they established the three branches of government with a legislature that could pass bills to correct injustices. Further, they included an amendment process that has resulted in 27 amendments to the Constitution.

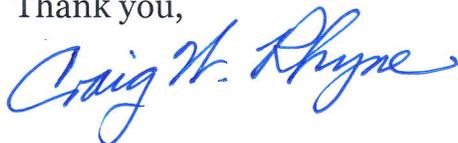
We do not know if Ohio schools require standalone civics classes or if your laws allow for civics lessons to be covered in history, language arts, and other classes. We also do not know how many hours of civics education are required to graduate high schools in Ohio. We do know, however, that the schisms in our society – between young and old - are primarily due to the lack of knowledge of our common history and information about the sacrifices of the Founders.

Therefore, for schools across America, we recommend that state laws require at least one year of civics education for a high school diploma, and that this civics education is taught in a standalone class. Knowing fundamental history of how America is governed demands that it should not be relegated to bits and pieces in various classes.

We would be happy to hear of your adoption of H.B. 103 and of other actions to uphold this great country and our common principles of liberty.

Note: *FreedomCivics – Foundations of American Government* is a 20-session federal civics course that is offered by the Freedom Education Foundation at [www.freedomcivics.org](http://www.freedomcivics.org).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig W. Rhyne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "C" at the beginning.