

## **Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District**

### **Joint Statement Against HB 322 & HB 327**

Yellow Springs Schools has long had a commitment to a rigorous curriculum that helps our students grow into active citizens contributing to the intellectual and cultural richness of the community. We have also been committed to providing the skills and knowledge necessary for students to become socially responsible, self-directed, life-long learners.

Never has an understanding of our nation's history been more vital to accomplish those goals.

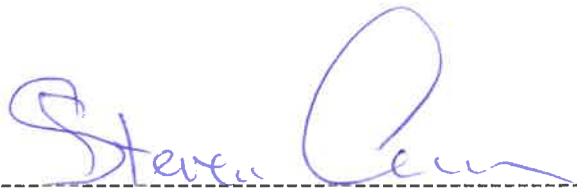
HB 322 and its companion HB 327 subvert those objectives as do any efforts by legislators that attempt to suppress learning and dialogue regarding the history of our country. They do not improve education but are rather political stunts designed to polarize our state and our nation. They represent legislative overreach and are an attempt by a handful of politicians to dictate the curriculum for Ohio students. For these reasons these are dangerous bills; the precedent they will set is worse.

Our Fearless Thinkers are strong. They are able to handle the truth of this country's creation and history in all its complexity. They come to our school buildings each day to learn and to question. That inquiry is at the heart of education and it will be choked by these two bills. We teach our Fearless Thinkers to carefully examine our history in all its complexity. We ask them to explore what the author James Baldwin meant when he wrote: "American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful, and more terrible" than we fully appreciate.

We ask our students, parents, families, and community members to make your voice heard by contacting your state legislators. Use your voice to demand they not only vote these bills down, but to vocally speak up against the divisiveness these bills cause to the students of Ohio.

We ask all other educational institutions, government bodies, students, families, non-profits, businesses, and the community in Ohio to stand with us and speak out against this proposed limitation of a foundational principle of democracy—education.

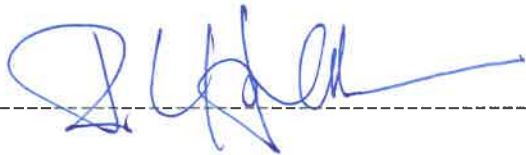
We must stand up and speak out.



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**Steven Conn, PhD**

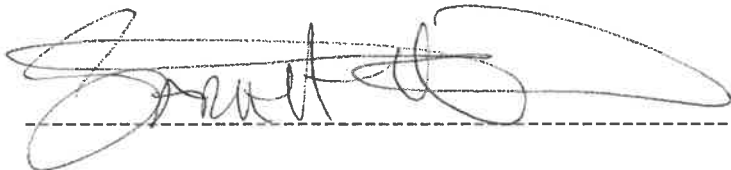
**President, Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District Board of Education**



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**Terri L. Holden, EdD**

**Superintendent, Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District**



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**Sarah Amin**

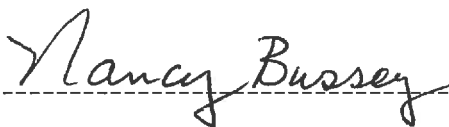
**Outgoing Co-President, Yellow Springs Teachers Association**



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**Eli Hurwitz**

**Incoming President, Yellow Springs Teachers Association**



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**Nancy Bussey**

**President, Chapter 644 of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees/AFSCME/AFL-CIO**