

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022 -048**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO EXPRESSING THE CONDEMNATION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF OHIO HOUSE BILL NO. 616, WHICH PROHIBITS AND CENSORS CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES AND FAMILIES OF LGBTQ+ OHIOANS IN OUR SCHOOLS FROM GRADES K-12 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, House Bill No. 616 would prohibit grades kindergarten through three from teaching, using, or providing any curriculum or instruction materials on sexual orientation or gender identity, and grades four through twelve would be limited to certain instruction materials, lessons, and curriculum on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill No. 616 not only censors critical race theory and the *New York Times*' "1619 Project," but also censors "diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes" and "any other concept that the state board of education defines as divisive or inherently racist," and this language is exceedingly vague and broad and will challenge free speech in schools, and House Bill No. 616 creates an opportunity to ban discussions about topics that a select few politicians decide are inappropriate or harmful; and

**WHEREAS**, this bill puts K-12 teachers and schools in an impossible position, making them choose between following state law or federal law; federal law, under Title IX, requires teachers and schools be inclusive of LGBTQ+ students and teachers, however, House Bill No. 616 threatens to revoke teacher licenses and state school funding, or reprimand in any way that the Ohio Department of Education deems appropriate for violations of House Bill No. 616, which will create an untenable conflict of law; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill No. 616 is an attempt to erase LGBTQ+ people from the classroom and is exceptionally cruel to LGBTQ+ community members, their families, and anyone who loves them, and the broad, open-ended ban on race- and gender-related topics deprives all Ohio students of a well-rounded education and puts some of Ohio's most vulnerable students in unsafe and unwelcoming classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 616 goes several steps further than Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill by extending censorship through the twelfth grade, and because this bill is so extreme, House Bill No. 616 will damage Ohio's reputation and make it less inviting to both industry investors and workforce talent; and

**WHEREAS**, every student deserves a quality education in a school community where they are safe and supported, and students learn best when they are able to focus on their lessons instead of worrying about being mistreated because of their gender, race, abilities, or where they come from, and education that represents the diverse world around us is critical to maintaining a functioning democracy where our young people grow up prepared to engage in civic activity.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, that:

**SECTION 1.** Kent City Council hereby condemns proposed Ohio House Bill No. 616, which attempts to censor the education of Ohio students.

**SECTION 2.** it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 3.** this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.


PASSED: May 18, 2022  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry T. Fiala  
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: May 18, 2022  
Date

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

I, AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *RESOLUTION No. 2022-048*, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON May 18, 2022.

  
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AMY WILKENS  
CLERK OF COUNCIL  
(SEAL)