“History is often taught in a way that gives students the impression that we jumped from one major event to the next, and that everything worked out in the end. But that is not how history works. We can’t cherry-pick the parts of American history we learn, and the perspectives we hear.”

-TaMyra Johnson, a senior at Fern Creek High School

SB 138 falls short of teaching truth in history and moves Kentucky in the wrong direction.

The bill aims to whitewash racism and its lasting impacts. If passed, Kentucky students would be taught that racism is unrelated to today's inequities. But the history of our state is in color, and students see and experience racism still today. Kentucky's youth need — and want — to be equipped to address racism, repair harm and bring authentic unity. Students deserve to learn the truth.

HB 14 and 18 take classroom censorship even further, with both bills declaring an emergency and HB 14 establishing a $5,000 fine for violations.

Our schools need resources. Kids deserve after-school programs, counselors, and more. Instead of meeting these needs, the sponsors and supporters of these bills aim to divide, censor, and stifle.

We do right by students and teachers, Black, Indigenous, and other Kentuckians of color, and everyone in our commonwealth, when we tell the truth.