



Censorship of Textbooks

Please Oppose SB 1602 (Bell)/HB 2249 (Casada)

We support our state's attempt to promote an accurate education of all the diverse faiths and civilizations that make up the fabric of our society. We encourage the factual historical portrayal of all groups in textbooks and support a transparent textbook selection process. However, we have serious concerns about the ultimate goal of groups leading this effort to censor textbooks that do not fit their agenda.

Bill will have unintended consequences for educators and their ability to promote diversity.

In order for our youth to have a complete education, it is essential for them to learn about the many diverse faiths, cultures, and civilizations that have contributed to the fabric of our society.

As introduced, the bill states that textbooks must be "free from any biases in its viewpoints; and reflects the values of the citizens of this state." Will the teaching of historical periods such as the Civil Rights era be deemed as "bias" and unacceptable? The values of which citizens of Tennessee would be deemed more worthy of being reflected in textbooks than others?

Heightens the prospects of politicizing textbook adoption.

Nomination process would allow for non-educators and political appointees to decide textbooks for our schools. The new restructuring of the Textbook Review Commission would allow for three of the nine appointees to be individuals who are deemed "knowledgeable about education issues" without clarifying what "knowledgeable" means.

Thinly veiled attempt by known anti-Muslim hate groups who continue to tarnish Tennessee's welcoming reputation by promoting fear and hate.

Those spearheading this effort have been at the forefront of trying to deny & restrict religious freedom rights of American-Muslims in Tennessee. They continue to push divisive agendas that promote hate and have no place in our classrooms.

Under the false pretense that our textbooks are flooded with "Muslim bias," these groups are rallying to have more representation on the Textbook Review Commission to ensure that their "values" are imposed on all children.