

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1145

The posting of the Ten Commandments in classrooms I feel will not serve the educational process well.

- Posting something with no further education or explanation leaves it up for individual interpretation that is not informed. The Ten Commandments has been open to interpretation since they were first given. They were meant to define what it meant to be God's chosen people. It was a means of structuring how the community was to be.
- There are several different understandings of how the Ten Commandments are listed. There is a Catholic and Reformed parsing that creates different emphasis. Which one will be used or will that depend on the school district?
- My understanding of the separation of Church and State was to allow for open religious expression. The USA has been a nation of multiple religious expressions from the beginning and it has allowed for a broader and deeper understanding of a divine force greater than any single religion or person.
- The event that significantly changed the Church and its mission was when the government of Constantine recognized Christianity as the religion of the empire. The Church took on an administrative duty for the empire and the empire "helped" spread the Christian mission. The Church does best when left to its own means and is not legislated.
- The home is where the principles of the Ten Commandments should be taught and the schools and government should support such teaching.

I oppose this bill for I see it creating more confusion and misunderstanding for young people. A person's religious faith should inform their decisions about legislation, not be the legislation.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Julie A Kurtz Anderson