

Opposition on HB 1145

As a Christian, I value my faith and the principles it has taught me throughout my life. However, I stand firmly against the inclusion of the Ten Commandments in public schools, as it undermines the foundational principle of the separation of church and state. This principle, enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, protects both freedom of religion and freedom from religious imposition.

Public schools serve students from diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and traditions. Introducing religious texts into these spaces risks alienating students and families who do not share the same faith, creating division rather than fostering inclusive practices and respect.

My faith is deeply personal, and I believe it is best nurtured in homes, churches, and personal practice—not mandated in public institutions. The role of public education is to provide a neutral, secular environment where all students feel valued and respected. While individuals are free to practice their faith, it is not the role of the government or public institutions to endorse or promote any particular religion.

Our children deserve an education that respects diversity and unites us in shared values, not one that divides us along religious lines.

Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille