

Dear Legislator,

Thank you for your willingness to try to lead all our citizens through our state government. It is a hard job and each person brings a perspective that is important to consider.

In the Senate Bill 2355 about mandating an inclusion of Intelligent Design into the science curriculum, I urge you to soundly defeat this bill.

Science as a content, is more than just opinions and ideas. Mandating a religious belief detracts from the importance of understanding science and how scientists use collected and observed data. Theories that are established over time by many scientists are a result of the cumulative data that has passed basic rules of high quality science, like results that repeat when peers carry out the process described (peer reviewed) information. Our k-12 schools have a limited amount of time to teach science due to the many other competing priorities. Currently, we have many in society that are not understanding science processes and are getting confused with personal beliefs. We need to use our k-12 time to create a informed and literate public.

Science is based on discovery and experimentation of observable phenomena. It is not based on beliefs or biases. Studies that cannot be replicated or data that is not observable is not used to support theories that have been put forth by scientists. Teaching a belief, as if it is science, has the potential to further politicize science and confuse students. When I was a science teacher, students had trouble with the word theory and thought it was just someone's idea. But according to Google AI, a scientific theory is a well-substantiated explanation of a natural phenomenon, based on a large body of evidence gathered through repeated observation and experimentation, which is widely accepted by the scientific community as the best explanation for a particular aspect of the natural world; essentially, a hypothesis that has been extensively tested and confirmed through research.

Science can help us solve some of our most difficult problems, but we need to have citizens that recognize what science is and is not. If a person leaves high school and does not understand the difference between a detective using the word theory to describe his/her own idea about the solving of a crime and the scientific theory based on repeated observations and experimentation as well as a broad agreement among trained scientists on the results, we have a problem. We have a society that is unable to advance by using science to their benefit. We have people who distrust public health information. We have people who argue the realities of the age of the earth due not to scientific theories but their own beliefs that are not supported by scientific evidence. We have a society that has difficulty working together due to distrust of everything and everyone.

Please do not take away time from the study of science processes to have students learn about beliefs. Reject Senate Bill 2355.

Thank you,
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