



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY HAYEK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICA FIRST WORKS		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS:		
CITY: WASHINGTON	STATE: DC	ZIP: 20004
EMAIL: ahayek@americafirstworks.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 9:42 PM
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Parents – not bureaucrats, unions, or politicians – should have control over their children’s education. We also must challenge progressive policies by standing against curriculum that includes patently dishonest and activist-driven information about the U.S. and our founding. Giving parents control is an 80% issue - there is no reason to oppose parental rights especially in education.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-7875
REPRESENTING: OPPORTUNITY SOLUTIONS PROJECT		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 122 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 200		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JASMINE WELLS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-4810	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CENTURY FOUNDATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 16 LOREN WOODS			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63124
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-480-2704
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BAPTIST CONVENTION		TITLE: DR.
ADDRESS: 292 FAITH BLVD		
CITY: LAURIE		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65037
EMAIL: tfaber@mobaptist.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2023 8:22 PM

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Parents are the source of children, and also ultimately responsible for their children. Parents can be found negligent in their care for their children. Therefore parents must have the right to know what others are teaching their kids and exposing their kids to. Anyone who seeks to keep information about a child from that child's parent(s) is suspicious at best.



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REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-480-2704	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BAPTIST CONVENTION		TITLE: DR.	
ADDRESS: 292 FAITH BLVD			
CITY: LAURIE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65037
EMAIL: tfaber@mobaptist.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2023 9:18 PM	

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We support this bill as well, and encourage the committee to combine this bill with HB 634 and HB 482.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA MICHEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: amanda.michel@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2023 8:44 PM

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Parents already have rights in public schools. As a parent, I do not need this bill. I do advocate for better pay and greater respect toward our amazing teachers.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY GRYDER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ajgryder@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 2:33 PM
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This is another egregious and dangerous overreach of government involvement. Further intruding on and threatening our teachers is not a path to better education in Missouri. Telling parents their children don't have to follow healthcare directives is irresponsible. These are PUBLIC schools that serve all children and we can't legislate to policy outliers. Open enrollment across districts will also carry risky downstream impacts.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY HAMMERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-993-5181
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF ST. LOUIS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 295 NORTH LINDBERGH BOULEVARD		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63141
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANNIE BERNAIX		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: anniebernaix@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 5:47 AM
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This places unnecessary burdens on our schools. Parents have access and are involved at a high level. Please stop making educators' lives impossible. Folks are leaving education in high numbers—we need to support our schools and our students, not place more unnecessary restrictions and burdens on them.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 11:24 PM
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I am Opposed to this Bill as vague and I do NOT trust the Bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 11:42 PM
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I am Opposed to this Bill. There are tricks and secrets in this Bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY ANN O'DANIEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: aaodaniel@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2023 8:44 PM
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As a parent and educator, this law violates student's human rights & is a threat to a student's education. I strongly oppose this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRITTANY WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICAN ATHEISTS		TITLE: STATE POLICY COUNSEL	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: CRANFORD		STATE: NJ	ZIP: 07016
EMAIL: bwilliams@atheists.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 10:47 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

March 1, 2023
 The Honorable Representative Brad Pollitt
 Chair, Elementary and Secondary Education
 Committee
 Missouri State Capitol
 201 West Capitol Avenue
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 Re:

OPPOSE HB 634, HB 627, HB 482 Testimony from American Atheists in opposition to the co-called "Parents' Bill of Rights"

Dear Chairperson Pollitt and Members of the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee:

American Atheists on behalf of its constituents in Missouri writes in opposition to HB 634, HB 627, and HB 482, bills that would give fringe parents veto power over nearly every aspect of the school environment, at the expense of students. Under the pretext of a concern for "parents' rights," these bills creates a host of new burdens on teachers, students, and parents. We strongly urge you to reject these harmful bills.

American Atheists is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the "wall of separation" between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheism and atheists are accepted as members of our nation's communities and where casual bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America. Religious liberty is an individual right guaranteed by the First Amendment, and American Atheists opposes efforts to misuse these constitutional protections to undermine the civil rights or religious freedom of others.

HB 627 is particularly harmful in that this bill allows parents to opt their children out of any classes or instruction based on the parents' "beliefs regarding morality, sex, and religion." For example, a parent might opt a student out of biology classes (if they have religious objections to evolution), history classes (if they disagree with the characterization of the US Civil War), geography (if they believe the Earth is flat), or even math (if they agree with the language in the Bible that implies pi is 3). This is no way to run a school – and it would be a nightmare for teachers and administrators. Similarly, HB 634 is vague, overly broad, and eliminates student privacy. This bill would prevent school personnel from discouraging or prohibiting parental notification of and "involvement in critical decisions affecting a pupil's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being". It is undoubtedly important for parents to be informed of their child's wellbeing, however this language can put a number of children at risk. Even with a provision that would allow for schools to adopt policies to withhold information if a disclosure would result in abuse or neglect, HB 634 still has the potential to endanger students. For example, if a school official disagrees with a student's religious views or lack thereof the official could inform the parent. Another example is LGBTQ students, by forcing teachers and counselors to disclose information that could potentially label students as LGBTQ could put them at harm. Growing up is challenging enough, and schools must be a space of safe expression for students. As drafted, HB 634 would effectively erase LGBTQ students, families, and history by banning classroom discussion about

sexual orientation and gender identity. The Legislature cannot force LGBTQ people back into the closet by policing identity or stopping kids from talking about their same-sex parents. This bill will also put school districts in an impossible bind. They are required to treat LGBTQ students equally and prevent harassment under Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender, including sexual orientation and gender identity. At the same time, the strictures of this bill would prevent schools from offering supportive resources and mandate unequal treatment of LGBTQ youth. Missouri schools would be subject to liability whether they protect LGBTQ students and provide an inclusive learning environment or silence and stigmatize them as this bill requires. Missouri's scarce education resources should be used for the actual education of students, not wasted in political efforts to target vulnerable youth. Likewise, HB 482 purports to prevent racial stereotyping. However, as drafted, HB 482 limits diversity education, prevents discussion of structural racism, and ultimately results in a censored view of American history. Our nation's schools should promote critical thinking, limit censorship, and prevent the white washing of racial and religious history. The impact of bills like HB 482 filed around the country goes beyond just the text of each bill. These vague bills create fear among well-meaning educators and employees. For example, a Texas administrator, fearing being penalized under similar legislation recently passed in his state, instructed teachers that they must teach both sides of the Holocaust.¹ At the same time, these bills empower those with extreme agendas to push to ban books,² drive out veteran educators,³ and even oppose Black History Month.⁴ The environment created by these bills chill speech, impede education, and is harmful to students and schools, ultimately undermining the long term prosperity of Missouri. Recent survey research⁵ confirms that a broad bipartisan majority of Americans: Want students to learn a thorough, accurate, and fact-based account of American history; Trust teachers to thoughtfully teach the hard parts of history; Believe racism is widespread and harmful to society and that schools have a responsibility to teach students that racism is wrong; Want to reduce political division; and Want schools to ensure that all students feel they belong and see themselves reflected in the curriculum. Teaching about the issues of the day, including matters that actually affect the lives of students and their families, can be an important way to invest students in their education and to connect the subjects they are studying to issues of significance in our nation's public discourse. Teachers, especially in areas like civics, social studies, and history, have a responsibility to teach critical thinking and to prepare students for full participation in our society and democracy. Deep engagement with so-called controversial subjects, including legislation or policies that affect the education of students themselves, can be an important way to encourage democratic participation and to bring these sometimes-abstract subjects to life. This bill would incentivize a censored teaching of our nation's history, tie the hands of the educators we trust, and could virtually eliminate discussions of structural racism. The quality of instruction, critical thinking skills of students, and sense of belonging of all students will suffer, and it will worsen the already poor diversity education offered in many schools. This bill will harm Missouri students, and is being driven by political, rather than educational, interests. Rather than attempting to silence history, trust and equip your teachers and educational institutions to do the important work of digging into difficult discussions around race and a nuanced understanding of our nation's complex racial history. In conclusion, Missouri's public schools are meant to be safe and welcoming for all students. Lawmakers should not manufacture "parent's rights" that endanger students or strip away their civil rights. We strongly urge you to reject these unnecessary and harmful bills. If you should have any questions regarding American Atheists' opposition to HB 634, HB 627, and HB 482, please contact me by email at bwilliams@atheists.org. Sincerely, Brittany Williams
State Policy Counsel
American Atheists



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE HOLMES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ktcruiser@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2023 10:41 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL ADELSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-442-3872	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JCRC		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 12 MILLSTONE CAMPUS DRIVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL LYNN ADELSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-442-3872	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 12 MILLSTONE CAMPUS DRIVE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: cadelstein@jcrctl.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 7:25 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Cheryl Adelstein and I serve as the Deputy Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis. We are here today to express our opposition to both the Parents Bill or Rights and Curriculum ban bills being heard today. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), guided by Jewish values, advocates, educates, collaborates, and mobilizes action on issues important to the Jewish community, 60,000 strong in St. Louis. We are committed to pursuing religious tolerance, civic discourse and social justice in St. Louis and beyond. Jewish tradition teaches about the act of t’shuvah, or making amends. When we begin the process of repentance, there are five steps we are required to make in order to successfully achieve the process, including the act of “desisting from sin.” But in order to desist from sin, we must be knowledgeable about the issue, how it began and why it was a problem. If we stop teaching our children the sins of our past, how will we prevent those sins from occurring in the future? There are some things about history on which we can all agree. Two examples: slavery was a horrific part of our nation’s history and that no one could fathom it happening again; and the Holocaust was devastating and also difficult to comprehend how something like that could happen. How do we ensure that horrors like the Holocaust, are not repeated? By educating the next generation. We tell the stories of the efforts by a few in power to systemically dehumanize one group, the Jews of Germany. We describe how the government stripped this group of their rights, then removed them from their homes, inhumanly transported them to concentration camps and killed, starved or worked 6 million or more people to death. We repeat the rally cry, Never Again. And we ensure that the stories are never forgotten so that they are never repeated. And there are stories of our American history that we want never to be repeated. In the 1800’s, as part of the U.S. belief in Manifest Destiny, our government removed native American peoples from their lands, marched them inhumanly to far away reservations - away from their own lands and traditions. During WWII, the U.S. gathered its own citizens of Japanese American origins, and placed them in internment camps for the duration of the war, ruining lives, reputations and never providing restitution. And then there were the race riots that occurred on either side of our state - in East St. Louis, IL and in Tulsa, OK, where entire black communities were burned to the ground. SB 89 says, and I quote, parents have “the right to object to the instructional materials and other materials used in their children’s classroom based on the parent’s belief that such materials are inappropriate for whatever reason and to be assured such objectionable materials are not taught to the parent’s child. “How do we teach comprehensive history without talking about times when our country missed the mark? I love this country. The premise of religious freedom, enshrined in our founding document, has enabled the Jewish people to live and thrive in the United state for nearly 400 years. When I learned about the Trail of Tears, the intentional slaughter of the buffalo, the rise of Jim Crow laws, the intentional displacement of US Citizens into camps, race riots, lynching, and I could go on, I do feel discomfort. Not because of my race or sex or my religion, but

because I am a human being. It is only through a full accounting of our American History, and our faith in our children to be critical thinkers, that they can understand the past and stand up and say Never Again.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHLOE TELLE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: moore292@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 8:19 AM
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Parents already have these rights.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTEN SANTOSCOY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Mommyx275@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2023 6:19 AM
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Parents of Trans kids need rights also. Leave us alone!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: christinebrown1009@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 8:33 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAN BRIGMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: danbrigman@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2023 7:33 AM
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This bill is unnecessary. As a parent of two children who have graduated from schools within Missouri's public education system, parents already have the ability to gather all the information that the bill espouses as a "right". A simpler method would be to ensure parents understand their role - all public school teachers in Missouri are more than willing to ensure parents know what their children are learning and what is going on during the school day. To gain that information, the parent simply needs to be proactive and ask teaching professionals for the information. Email, phone, or in-person meetings are already a possibility, and the parent simply needs to be curious and caring enough about their child's education to reach out.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dems22blue@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 5:40 PM
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Of all the duplicate Parents Bills of Rights bills that have come down the pike, this one is the most palatable, not great like gooey butter cake but not terrible like...whatever your least favorite food is. For me, it would be pickled eggs. This bill mostly codifies rights that already exist. Areas I think need clarified are section 4.1.a with the language about no one being able to coerce students. I feel that this could still out students before they choose to discuss topics with their parents. I also think the word coerce is heavily loaded connotatively, ascribing nefarious intent to teachers that I've never seen, and further erode trust in teachers. Also, section 6 is an abridged version of the boilerplate language of other bills of this stripe, but doesn't need to be included at all. I don't believe a parents' bill of rights needs to exist because parents already have these rights and there are so many things we need to address in MO. That being said, this is not the worst. Again, these bills had overwhelming opposition. 90% of folks who came to testify did so in opposition.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH W		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ewardhome@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 4:00 PM
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Hello, thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Elizabeth and I'm a queer Missourian. I graduated from a public high school in 2010, and only afterwards, realized my true identity. While I was in school, there were very few positive representations of queer people in the media or in books we read for school. I remember feeling confused and ashamed about the feelings I had while I was in middle school -- something I'm still trying to heal from at age 30. Positive representation is important. We have studies that show that 50% of LGBTQ school-aged youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, but those who found their school to be LGBTQ-affirming reported lower rates of attempting suicide. While public schools serve entire families, the needs of students should always come first. We have an opportunity to preserve life-saving measures for kids in our state. I urge you to vote no on this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER FLEMING		PHONE NUMBER: 314-477-4059	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE: DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE SCOTT HOWARD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: midwesterntheory@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 9:26 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Jamie Howard, I am a 29 years old resident of Jefferson City and I oppose HBs 634, 482 and 627. I was born and raised in Missouri and graduated from Moberly Senior High School. I'm a veteran of the Missouri Army National Guard, and a former deputy sheriff here in Cole County, I left law enforcement to pursue a medical education through the University of Cincinnati and had the opportunity to serve as Student Government Vice President as an adult nontraditional student, and I will be running for House of Representatives. I say this because I want to emphasize that my time in the educational sphere is recent. LGBTQ people exist. Queer people exist. They are real people, we are real people, human beings, attempting to live normal lives like everyone else. They love like humans do and in the way that only humans can do. They should be allowed to live their lives publicly and participate **FREELY** in our society with as much liberty you would afford a straight couple. They should be able to be proud of their spouses and their families and their lives. I know for a fact that there are LGBTQ Missourians employed right here in the capitol building that this bill will affect, or it will affect their spouses or their families. It is outrageous to me that you cannot see how these bills will affect the families and lives of people you work with every day, people you likely would call friends. Beyond that LGBTQ kids exist, and it is not a new phenomenon, and you all know this as well. I graduated high school in 2012 and there were kids I grew up with, that I was friends with, who were openly gay while they were in school. Going back to middle school at least, I remember queer kids being bullied relentlessly in a time in our society when we used "gay" as an insult in school, at work, on television and on the radio and after fighting relentlessly for representation in the media, people began to see the LGBTQ community as human beings, as neighbors and co-workers, friends even, and we saw progress. We saw our American society begin to stop using "gay" as an insult and the word "fag" became so awful to hear that most people become offended when they hear it. If these bills pass, we will see less supportive teachers and staff in schools due to fear of reprisals. We will see less effective intervention from school staff in handling bullying and harassment problems, just like when I was in school. We will see more homophobic remarks from students, parents and school staff just like when I was in school. Under this bill, teachers cannot discuss any book that involves LGBTQ people or has a romantic relationship within the book, they cannot mention LGBTQ history, and they cannot discuss anything to do with human relationships. And principals would be banned from discussing bullying/harassment that a student may endure. LGBTQ history is American history, Stonewall happened, Harvey Milk is an important part of American history, the AIDS epidemic happened, and yes the Nazis did raid the worlds first Research Institute of Sexology. Opened in 1919 dedicated to studying trans and queer healthcare, and providing gender affirming care until the 1930s when Nazis raided the hospital and burned 10s of thousands of books related to the study of transgender healthcare. This statement from PROMO perfectly frames my above points together, "This bill aims to erase LGBTQ students, families, and history by banning any mention about them in schools. The sad thing is

childhood psychologists have taught for decades that relationships or relational aspects within a classroom or school environment are an integral part of growth and development. We need to leave education to our educators. Teachers have a tough job of helping children think critically and prepare for their futures. Curriculum should be set by educators, not censored by politicians with partisan agendas." As for HB 627 lines 81 through 87 are deliberate. You want to attempt to get ahead of "CRT" but you're firing solutions in all the wrong directions. Systemic racism is very real, I am attaching several pages for you from my own video lessons to actual examples of systemic racism. This to me sounds like you want to bring back lesson plans created by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) to teach the lost cause myth that has been taught in Missouri for decades. The UDC was founded after reconstruction to preserve the ideology of confederates who were reaching old age and passing away. They created the myths of "states rights" (when in fact every state that seceded from the Union cited slavery as their direct reason.) and the "happy slave". We should be ashamed of the actions that occurred in our past so that it fuels us to never let it happen again. Kids should be ashamed of slave holders and fiercely proud of abolitionists. Begin: My personal lessons for my educational account regarding systemic racism in the United States Washington CNN — One of Richard Nixon's top advisers and a key figure in the Watergate scandal said the war on drugs was created as a political tool to fight blacks and hippies, according to a 22-year-old interview recently published in Harper's Magazine. "The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people," former Nixon domestic policy chief John Ehrlichman told Harper's writer Dan Baum for the April cover story published Tuesday. "You understand what I'm saying? We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin. And then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities," Ehrlichman said. "We could arrest their leaders. raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did." Ehrlichman's comment is the first time the war on drugs has been plainly characterized as a political assault designed to help Nixon win, and keep, the White House. It's a stark departure from Nixon's public explanation for his first piece of legislation in the war on drugs, delivered in message to Congress in July 1969, which framed it as a response to an increase in heroin addiction and the rising use of marijuana and hallucinogens by students. However, Nixon's political focus on white voters, the "Silent Majority," is well-known. And Nixon's derision for minorities in private is well-known from his White House recordings.

COINTELPRO - (syllabic abbreviation derived from Counterintelligence Program; 1956–1971) was a series of covert and illegal projects actively conducted by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) aimed at surveilling, infiltrating, discrediting, and disrupting domestic American political organizations. FBI records show COINTELPRO resources targeted groups and individuals the FBI deemed subversive, including feminist organizations, the Communist Party USA, anti-Vietnam War organizers, activists of the civil rights and Black power movements (e.g. Martin Luther King Jr., the Nation of Islam, and the Black Panther Party), environmentalist and animal rights organizations, the American Indian Movement (AIM), Chicano and Mexican-American groups like the Brown Berets and the United Farm Workers. In 1971 in San Diego, the FBI financed, armed, and controlled an extreme right-wing group of former members of the Minutemen anti-communist paramilitary organization, transforming it into a group called the Secret Army Organization that targeted groups, activists, and leaders involved in the Anti-War Movement, using both intimidation and violent acts. The FBI has used covert operations against domestic political groups since its inception; however, covert operations under the official COINTELPRO label took place between 1956 and 1971. Many of the tactics used in COINTELPRO are alleged to have seen continued use including; discrediting targets through psychological warfare; smearing individuals and groups using forged documents and by planting false reports in the media; harassment; wrongful imprisonment; illegal violence; and assassination. According to a Senate report, the FBI's motivation was "protecting national security, preventing violence, and maintaining the existing social and political order". Beginning in 1969, leaders of the Black Panther Party were targeted by the COINTELPRO and "neutralized" by being assassinated, imprisoned, publicly humiliated or falsely charged with crimes. The Black Codes were laws which governed the conduct of free and freed African Americans United states. Although black codes existed before the civil war and many northern states had them it was the southern U.S. states that codified them into everyday practice. The best known of them were passed in 1865 and 1866 by southern states after the American Civil War in order to restrict African Americans freedom and compel them to continue to work for low or no wages. Since the colonial period, colonies and states had passed laws that discriminated against free blacks and in the South these were generally included in slave codes. The goal was to suppress the influence of free African Americans particularly after slave rebellions because of their potential influence on slaves control their labor and preserve the free labor system. In the first two years after the civil war black codes were enacted by politicians to maintain white control over former slaves namely by restricting African Americans labor activity. Common codes included

vagrancy laws that criminalize African Americans lack of employment or permanent residents and law often also prevented them owning or renting property, and inability to pay these fees for vagrancy crimes resulted in imprisonment during which prisoners labored in the very same wage free positions held by slaves less than two years prior. Other crimes punishable by imprisonment and subsequent slave labor per black codes included unlawful assembly for worship learning to read and write and to racial relationships violation of slave like labor contracts possession of firearms making or selling liquor selling agricultural produce without a written permission from an employer whether or not they were self-employed and practicing any occupation other than servant or farmer without holding a judge ordered license. Additionally orphaned minors and minors removed from their homes by the state were apprenticed by the courts to employers until the age of 21. Minors apprenticed under black codes were authorized to be forced into labor against their will and apprentice relationships closely resembled those of master and slave in terms of discipline and involuntary labor. By 1866 nearly all southern states had enacted individual sets of black codes the widespread enforcement of black code laws effectively use the 13th amendments exception of penal labor to reinvent the chattel slavery economy and society to comply with federal law. On September 9, 1912, Sleety Mae Crow, an 18-year-old white girl, was attacked as was walking from home to her aunt's house nearby on Browns Bridge Road along the Forsyth-Hall County line, in Georgia. The next morning, searchers found Mae Crow. She was still alive and breathing shallowly although she had been severely beaten and sexually assaulted, she would eventually pass from her injuries. At the scene of the rape, searchers found a small pocket mirror that was said to belong to Ernest Knox, a 16-year-old black resident of Oscarville. Knox allegedly told three friends what he had done, they went to see for themselves. They were Oscar Daniel, 17; Oscar's sister Trussie Daniel, 22; and Robert Edwards, 24, a close neighbor. These allegations were never proven, and statements were made under the threat of drowning. Ernest Knox was arrested at his home and transported to Gainesville. On the way Knox, after being subjected to a form of torture known as mock lynching and threatened with drowning, confessed to having attacked Crow. Crow's murder has not been solved to this day. Oscar Daniel, Trussie Daniel, and Rob Edwards were all arrested the next day as suspects in Crow's attack, as was their neighbor Ed Collins who was held as a witness. They were taken to the county jail in Cumming, where a mob of an estimated 2,000 nearby white residents had formed by the time, they got them to the jail. As the day went on the mob grew by an estimated several hundred to 4,000 and had begun calling for the lynching of the arrestees. Eventually some men gained entry and shot and killed Edwards in his cell, then dragged his body through the streets, and hanged him from a telephone pole on the Cumming town square. His body was so mutilated that early accounts identified him as Ed Collins. Charges against Trussie Daniel and Ed Collins were dismissed; she agreed to a plea bargain and testifying as a state witness against her brother and Knox. Knox and Oscar Daniel stood trial. Each of the youths were quickly convicted of rape and murder by the all-white jury, black residents were excluded as jurors because they were largely prevented from voting. On the following day both teenagers were sentenced to death by hanging. State law prohibited public hangings, and the scheduled execution was to be viewed only by the victim's family and select others. However, Gallows were built off the square in Cumming and the fence erected around the gallows was burned down the night before the execution. A crowd estimated at between 5,000 and 8,000 gathered to watch what became a public hanging of the two youths. The total county population was around 12,000 at the time. In the following months, a small group of men called Night Riders terrorized black citizens, warning them to leave in 24 hours or be killed. Those who resisted were subjected to further harassment, including shots fired into their homes, or livestock killed. An estimated 98% of black residents of Forsyth County left. Some property owners were able to sell at a loss. Many black properties ended up in white hands without a sale and without a legal transfer of title. Eventually, the village of Oscarville was submerged under the waters of Lake Lanier. This campaign of terror was widespread across Appalachian Georgia, with Forsyth County being the third to expel its black population after Towns and Union. The Campaign would continue to the surrounding counties of Fannin, Gilmer and Dawson and beyond and would later be described by historians and anthropologists as a racial cleansing. Between May 31st and June 1st, 1921, in Tulsa Oklahoma, a violent racially motivated riots broke out and sparked by confrontation of white residents and resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people mostly African Americans and the destruction of the Greenwood district. The Greenwood district was a prosperous African American community, business, and financial services district known as Black Wall Street. The conflict began when 19-year-old Dick Rowland, a black man, was accused of assaulting 17-year-old Sarah Paige, a white woman, in an elevator. Soon after Rowland was arrested a white mob formed to attack the jail where he was being held and remove him with the plan to lynch Rowland in the same manner, they had lynch Roy Belton the year prior. African American residents who were armed for self-defense confronted the white mob and the situation escalated into a full-blown riot. Over the next two days the white mob burned and looted homes businesses and churches in the Greenwood district leaving nearly 10,000 African Americans homeless and erasing a modern estimate of \$200 million in generational wealth built despite decades

of setbacks from slave and black codes and Jim Crow laws, forever. A 2001 Commission report found between 75 and 300 people had been killed, mostly African American. The National Guard would eventually be called in to restore order, but the damage had already been done. The Tulsa race riot was one of the worst incidences of racial violence in American history. A violent and tragic event that reflected the deep-seated racial tensions and inequalities in the American Society in the early 20th century. It had and continues to have a profound impact on the African American community in Tulsa and beyond. The events of the riot were largely suppressed by local state and federal officials for decades it serves today as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality here in the United States. Bleeding Kansas, Bloody Kansas, or the Border War was a series of violent civil confrontations in Kansas Territory, and to a lesser extent in western Missouri, between 1854 and 1859. It emerged from a political and ideological debate over the legality of slavery in the proposed state of Kansas. The conflict was characterized by years of electoral fraud, raids, assaults, and murders carried out in the Kansas Territory and neighboring Missouri by proslavery "border ruffians" and antislavery "free-staters". According to Kansapedia of the Kansas Historical Society, 56 political killings were documented during the period, and the total may be as high as 200. It has been called a Tragic Prelude, or an overture, to the American Civil War, which immediately followed it. The conflict centered on the question of whether Kansas, upon gaining statehood, would join the Union as a slave state or a free state. The question was of national importance because Kansas's two new senators would affect the balance of power in the U.S. Senate, which was bitterly divided over the issue of slavery. The Kansas–Nebraska Act of 1854 called for popular sovereignty: the decision about slavery would be made by popular vote of the territory's settlers rather than by legislators in Washington. Existing sectional tensions surrounding slavery quickly found focus in Kansas. Missouri, a slave state since 1821, was populated by many settlers with Southern sympathies and proslavery views, some of whom tried to influence the Kansas decision by entering Kansas and claiming to be residents. The conflict was fought politically, as well as between civilians, where it eventually degenerated into brutal gang violence and paramilitary guerrilla warfare. The term "Bleeding Kansas" was popularized by Horace Greeley's New-York Tribune. Kansas had a state-level civil war that would soon be replicated on a national basis. It had two different capitals (proslavery Lecompton and antislavery Lawrence and Topeka), two different constitutions (the proslavery Lecompton Constitution and the antislavery Topeka Constitution), and two different legislatures (the so-called "bogus legislature" in Lecompton and the antislavery body in Lawrence). Both sides sought and received help from outside, the proslavery side from the federal government; Presidents Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan openly helped the proslavery partisans. Both claimed to reflect the will of the people of Kansas. The proslavers used violence and threats of violence, and the free-soilers responded in kind. After much commotion, including a congressional investigation, it became clear that a majority of Kansans wanted Kansas to be a free state, but this required congressional approval, which Southerners in Congress blocked. On May 21, 1856, proslavery Missourians invaded Lawrence, Kansas, and burned the Free State Hotel, destroyed two antislavery newspaper offices, and ransacked homes and stores in what became known as the Sack of Lawrence.



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BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JANA RAMSEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Ramseyjana@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2023 9:45 PM
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To define what parts of history can & cannot be taught in schools is censorship at its best. Others might call it communism. If that history involves LGBTQ communities, rights, maltreatment, etc..., it should be taught. Just as the ugly history of our countries origins should be taught side by side with the beautiful parts of our nation's history. Let us learn from our past...all of it.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JARRETT PILLSBURY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jmpillsbury@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 12:00 PM
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I oppose this legislation.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JASON GRIZZLE		PHONE NUMBER:
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ADDRESS:		
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EMAIL: grizzly_bear2013@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 11:49 PM
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As I suggested in my testimony against HB 482: if parents wish to control every single subject their child learns about, rather than allowing curriculum to be designed by teachers who studied for years how to do so properly, then I suggest those parents homeschool their child. It is not for individual teachers to prevent their child from learning history. Parents did not go to school for this. While they have a right to know *what* is being taught, they do not get to control it in public schools.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JERE HOCHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Jhstlny@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 9:39 AM
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Jere Hochman Individual For March 1, 2023 Hearing Note: Full testimony for HB 482 627 674 I will select segments for 2 minute testimonies Good Morning; Please, Drop this legislation. Parts are unnecessary. Parts are hurtful. Missouri Parents already have access to everything in proposed in your bills. Neosho, Fort Zumwalt, Lamar, and others already have Board policies, administrative guidelines, and procedures in place or in process on what you are proposing including curriculum and book access to parents, complaint procedures are in handbooks, parents visit schools and more. School districts track complaints and acknowledge trends of concerns in public forums and strategic plan. What you are proposing does not come up because parents already have access. Erasing children is immoral and hurtful. When a school ignores or cannot validate some children’s families, friends, even legislators – and themselves in schools, it is hurtful, models discrimination, and teaches hate. No child should be told not to explain his “draw your family” picture or “you can’t read that book because some of the characters are different.” And, your bill contradicts two of the six standards in your MSIP School Accreditation process. There are no data and no evidence to support the redundant school communication for adults and redacting targeted individuals and families from children. Instead – I implore you to model trust and honor professionalism in schools, to acknowledge existing law and policy, acknowledge every child’s worthiness, and to respect parenting. Trust Teachers. Teachers in Missouri are professionals. They are educated, certified, participate in continuing education, and supervised. Students and parents observe directly and indirectly 180 days a year. They care and have children’s best interests at heart. Trust them. They are good people with knowledge, instructional skills, mission, and heart. They are good teachers, your children like them, and we can’t afford to lose any more. Trust Missouri Professional District Leadership and Content Area Associations Missouri School Boards and Missouri School Administrator associations analyze policies and interpret your laws for school district; they train board members and superintendents; and they have provided model policies and best practices to serve parents and children in over 500 school districts for decades. Missouri Associations of mathematic, English, science, social studies, music, guidance counseling and others know research and community expectations for colleges, careers, and trades; set high standards and expectations for students, teachers, and supervisors; and recommend juried resources for schools. Trust Parents. Stop disrespecting parents and scripting how they should be parents. They know what to do and have advocates and allies to help them navigate schools if they don’t. Parents ALREADY receive routine notes and activities from teachers. They attend school events and parent-teacher conferences. They visit schools and classrooms. They do not hesitate to call or email a teacher. They do not hesitate to call the principal, central office, superintendent or make a comment at a Board meeting. They can ALREADY find the school district’s curriculum framework, resources, used, standards, and tests on district websites or calling to ask. They ALREADY can visit school libraries. They ALREADY have the right with procedures already established to complain about a book or

curriculum content. Their signature is already required for field trips and they are informed when Junior Achievement instructors or guest speakers are in school. And I speak from experience, parents do complain and expect a response. Trust Curriculum Development, Professional Training, and Supervision Policies already in place. Board Policy governs how curriculum is determined and is made accessible to parents in local school districts. To write District curriculum, committees use State standards; Math, Science and other professional organization's standards and research; advice from business councils, colleges, and trades; review of publishers resources; and parent input. Curriculum is online. Parents can review books and visit schools. Staff development, diversity workshops, understanding what kids are going through support professionalism, fairness, and care for children. I mentioned to someone that the things you want to prohibit are in place in school districts across the state – your school districts. Prior to this year, have there been complaints? Are teachers doing that which you are accusing them of, unfairly. Why? Trust Government. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Federal Office of Civil Rights, and other agencies who protect rights of children and parents and already follow laws which obligates them to accept and investigate complaints. It's working. Why would you want to implement what your majority party has been against for decades: big government intrusion, social engineering, brainwashing, and stifling regulations. Trust People, Trust "We the people," Respect for all persons, America's Progress, Community Engagement, and Responsibility and Accountability For over sixty years schools have been protecting children's' and parents' rights implementing IDEA, Title IX, non-discrimination and OCR laws, State laws, school district policies, and school rules. Every person and entity I cited has delivered. They communicate. Listen. Investigate. Act. School superintendents, principals, teachers, and counselors ALREADY take responsibility to follow and monitor those laws, policies, and procedures; to communicate with parents and communities; and to care. ((I assure you that kids talk when they think the back seat of the car is soundproof. Parents hear what's going on. And, when parents don't like something – law or no law – they complain. Parents are not shy. If they are, someone will advocate for them. In my most recent job, if parents didn't get an answer on curriculum or a class or a circumstance from the teacher or principals, they went to the central office, they spoke at a board meeting. And, the district employed a remarkable parent advocate who I assure you got answers for parents. And, the schools took action.)) Trust. That's it. Trust. Trust parents, the faith community, community agencies, community groups, recreational associations, and all those in the proverbial village who raise a child. Collectively, they've done a pretty good job – and legislating their actions and silencing their care is wrong. Teacher, counselors, cafeteria workers, security guards, administrators – only "agenda" is to 1) keep children safe – physically and YES, emotionally; 2) teach children approved lessons and YES to use the teachable moment to support children; and 3) be responsible and professional. They do not discriminate – nor do they judge, cite preference, label or pontificate when sensitive topics arise. They use age-appropriate communication. They listen. They protect children who might be teased or bullied (per federal and state Safety Act laws). They diffuse situations. They do not preach; they teach and let kids figure things out. On perceived sensitive issues and even controversial topics, they provide information, get facts and answer questions objectively, knowing that the child will get thousands of other images, misinformation, and explanations on their phones, on the street, or the back of the bus. If a child states a religious belief in a discussion, draws a family picture that does not look like your family picture, brings up a controversial or political issues - they do not squelch that child nor allow another child to judge them. But they do not and should not ignore or control what a child feels, thinks, or is curious about. They do not ignore children. They will not tolerate bullying and will follow your laws to enforce that. Some kids and adults may be different than some of you. History shows us that. I don't want you to feel guilty about bad laws passed in this chamber in another century or kids to feel guilty about anything in the past. If anything, I want them to witness history that listened and learned and figured things out. I implore you to drop these bills right now. Now. Trust the adults, the professional associations, the supervisors, the lawmakers who have already addressed rights and trust parents. Do not proceed with proposals that treat parents like they cannot think or take action on their own; that pretends that the policies and procedures to support parents do not exist; and which place untenable pressure on teachers and quite frankly, scaring teachers out of the profession to the degree you have legislation proposed to fix that. Most importantly, do not proceed with proposals that label – and then erase - children or their parents or their friends. The kids are watching.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JERE HOCHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Jhstlny@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 4:22 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Good Morning For over four decades in rural, suburban, and urban school districts, I served children and communities as a teacher, principal, network superintendent, and superintendent in Missouri and as superintendent of school districts in two other states. In over 18 years as a superintendent, I worked for respective school boards, supervised over thirty-five schools, fifty principals, and thousands of teachers. Most importantly, the lens I provide today is having observed thousands of classes and teachers in urban, suburban, and rural school districts. You can and should trust teachers. Having observed thousands of classes and supervising hundreds of professional teachers and principals, I speak to you in opposition of House Bills 627 and 482 and encourage you drop these bills now. You can and should trust teachers. These bills are unnecessary. They will have a chilling effect on instruction and listening to children. They will reinforce efforts to make some children and families invisible. They will leave children unprotected and graduates unprepared for the trades and higher learning in yes, a diverse state and nation. Missouri Parents already have access to every topic itemized in your proposed in your bills. I will gladly provide board policies, curriculum guides, district websites, district procedures to visit schools, review all resources, and file complaints. Providing subjective terminology in sweeping guidelines for teachers, will have a chilling effect on teaching children as we would want them to be taught, to think, and to learn. Simply, if enacted, these bills will have teachers walking on eggshells checking every word they say. These bills will create fear of violating a law when listening to and speaking with children, discussing a short story, or teaching medical science. They will assuredly contribute to the staggering teacher shortage. Please, drop these bills. We need laws with words like trust, professionalism, support, professional development, and objective feedback attributed to teachers; not suggestions a teacher would coerce a child, silence a child from a parent, or suggest collective guilt on children for inexcusable actions in history. Implying that teachers should ignore a child needing support or that they cannot be trusted to lead an objective discussion on sensitive topics or controversial issues is hurtful to children and disrespectful of professionals who are trained, coached, and supervised by experienced professionals. What advice will school board attorneys and MSBA give school boards to develop Board Policy and administrative guidelines - without the capacity to provide clear, exacting terms and phrases to train and enforce the law and to determine if a violation of this law occurred? What directions will district administrators provide principals to judge teacher communication with children with regard to context, the developmental stage of children, vocabulary, concepts, and what a child hears compared to what an adult says. What directions will principals give to teachers about what they can and cannot say, answer and not answer, ask and not ask – direction with enough specificity so teachers can comply with this law. Who will serve as your language police? Again, parents already have the right to complain about lessons, materials, and what their child says happened at school today. That’s worked for decades. What’s changed? Where are the data – and they are available – that complaints have

increased to necessitate such disrespectful, draconian presumptions about professional educators. Or supporting a child whose family make up may be different than yours? And, where in any of this is language that respects administrators and teachers as professionals when the "Welcome Back Staff" speech informs teachers not to coerce children or encourage a student to "don't tell your parent?" Have you asked them what advice they will give teachers next August? Not what the law or the policy is, but what advice they will give them. What will you say to a teacher? Can principals say with confidence "you have nothing to worry about" and "there is nothing in this that keeps you from responding to a student who shares his or her opinion in class" or asks you a question? Can principals say with confidence - - "you can still have children read books with a character who is gay" "You can teach the truth about the Missouri Compromise, the Dred Scott Case, an 1847 Missouri education Law, or the State's response to Brown v. Board of Education? Please, drop these bills. Conclusion



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY BROK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE POLOKONIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: k.polokonis@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 11:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Efforts to establish a "Parents Bill of Rights" perversely violate my rights as a parent. I want my children to attend educational institutions where they are safe, where they are able to talk to trusted faculty members about any issues they are struggling with, and where they are taught accurate information about the history of the United States and the State of Missouri. Should these efforts be successful, my two children will be less safe in their educational environments and will receive lower quality education. These bills are harmful to children and to the wellbeing of our state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: aplomb-grove0n@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 5:13 PM

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Parents already have rights listed under this legislation. This places an undue burden on an already overworked and underpaid teacher workforce in Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: aplomb-grove0n@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 8:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I strongly oppose this legislation. This bill undermines Missouri educators, and puts Missouri's students at an even greater disadvantage than 20 years of a GOP majority has already done. This will limit learning, deter educators from coming to Missouri, and push more educators out. Please, for once, do something that serves the Missouri citizens who pay your salary. This is not it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA USELMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LINDSAY A REUSTLE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: areustle416@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2023 10:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Many parts of this bill regarding abuse and neglect are already policies and practices in accordance with the law. This is another attempt to censor our educators and the curriculum. Educators are highly trained, highly qualified individuals. They have to pass background checks and several other safety measures to receive their teaching position. Educators are professionals who know what should and should not be taught in their classrooms based upon their discipline. Not only did they receive collegiate training to teach, but they are required to attend ongoing and continuous professional development. Many educators are members of national organizations in their discipline that help to guide their instruction and inform their curriculum. Once again, this bill will have a chilling effect on our classrooms by limiting the breadth and depth of knowledge our Missouri students will receive, putting them at a disadvantage to peers from other states. This not only hurts students from underprivileged backgrounds, but it hurts ALL students by limiting diverse perspectives in education. Some minors do not have a supportive and safe home, and school personnel and/or peers are the only persons that these minors have for support. Youth in these homes are more likely to experience retaliation and/or for reaching out for help at school, if parents/guardians are notified, for example, that they identify as LGBTQ+.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA SPAHR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: llspahr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 2:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Lisa Spahr and I live in Manchester MO. I'm the parent to two children, elementary and middle-school aged. I believe our education in this district is very good, but that requires us allowing teachers to teach, not censor. It requires us to serve the whole person in our students and community, not just some. This bill is both unnecessary and has areas that need cleaned up to prevent harm and overreach. Let's support our schools. This doesn't do it. Let's support Missourians, this doesn't do it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGGIE EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: PRO CHOICE MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: maggie@prochoicemissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2023 9:51 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Chair, Vice-Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Pro Choice Missouri in opposition to HB 482 & 627 that seeks to mandate exclusionary political interference in Missouri classrooms. Pro-Choice Missouri works to protect and expand every Missourians’s rights to bodily autonomy, to access essential reproductive healthcare, to access accurate information in order to make the best decisions for ourselves and our families, and to parent our children in safety and dignity. Moreover, we work to ensure reproductive justice for all Missourians, which involves advocating to reduce disparities based on race, income-level, insurance coverage status, and other factors. This bill threatens young Missourians’ access to trusted sexual health education. Although Missouri does not currently require sexual education courses to be comprehensive, age appropriate or medically accurate, school is often the only safe place for young people to ask honest questions about their sexuality and/ or sexual health. Mandating the erasure of LGBTQIA+ existence, let alone LGBTQ+ specific sexual health education, will have devastating emotional and physical consequences on the young people in MO schools. This bill is about one thing: ideological control and influence over Missouri children and families. Ensuring young people’s understanding of bodily autonomy and agency through comprehensive sexual education is a critical component of combating sexual harassment and violence. Already, gender non-conforming children are more susceptible to bullying and sexual assault, when compared to their cisgender counterparts. Transgender youth specifically are more than three times more likely to attempt suicide. This is a direct product of the isolation, demonization, and invalidation resulting from both culture and policies, like this proposed bill, that deny their gender identity. The Pro Choice Missouri Foundation recently published The State of Sexual Education: Standards, Stories, Student Voices from the St. Louis Region, a comprehensive report on the experiences of more than 700 students with sex ed in school settings. The overwhelming majority of respondents indicated dissatisfaction with the sex ed they received in school. Missouri students know they are not receiving ALL of the information about their sexual health and wellbeing and they are demanding more. Notably, 85% of students who took the survey reported being interested in more LGBTQIA+ specific sexual health instruction in schools, not less. Again, school is often the only safe place for young people to ask honest questions about their sexuality and/ or sexual health; This opportunity for learning is critical for young people to learn to assert boundaries and how to express discomfort or report abuse. This bill threatens the immediate and long term health safety of all students in our state. ??Our children deserve the freedom to learn: to develop the knowledge and skills to reckon with our past, shape a better future, and pursue their dreams. All Missourians have a right to access accurate information when making decisions about their families and futures. This bill will cause lasting harm in Missouri. Pro-Choice Missouri, representing more than 60,000 Missourians across the state, opposes the advancement of these bills,

and urges you to vote NO today. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY GROSS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: marygva@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 1:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Parents already have the rights enumerated in the bill. This bill assumes they do not, which is false. The phrase about "Additional restrictions are placed on schools to prevent employees and students from being compelled to adopt, affirm, adhere to, or profess ideas as specified, including ideas related to race, ethnicity, color, or national origin superiority." is much too vague to be useful and will surely end up in courts, another waste of time and money. Please vote No on HB 627



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL D DOWDY-BENIVAMONDE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: maverick771@outlook.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 9:52 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I firmly opos this propsed bill as written because it would restrict & could most likely severly forever damage the digity, self-esteem , self-worth of children & teens whom self-identify as either gay, lesbian, bisexual, or a transgender man or woman. it would increase the rates of suicides nad attempted suicides among that particular group of teenagers and children . that is a known fact. i work as a nurse and as a teacher in my life time, i saw this first hand myself. . i had three of my former patients, two males, one was a 24 yr old gay man who took his own life by shotting his self in the heda, he died in the ER dept that i once worked in the State Of Texas in Abilene. I was a ER Nurse at that time in the 1984. he was alive for only a few minutes before he died in the ER Dept, nothing could be done to save him. He left behind a suicide note that stated , that he took his left because his parents and family had disowned him nad he felt all alone and worthless by society, he stated he even felt this way all during his school years too. As a tecaher & Nurse, i have often hera this from my former students and former patients, please dont pass this cruel, heratless, bigoted, discriminatory, and unnecessary bill into law!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 8:04 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I urge you to oppose HB627. The Missouri legislature has made it a priority in 2023 to enact a so-called "Parents' Bill of Rights", with a number of bills that dictate what topics may be taught in Missouri's K-12 schools, banning lessons on equity or true historical events. This bill prohibit the teaching of what is often mistakenly called "critical race theory". The bills ban any teaching that may be construed to make students or parents feel that "individuals, by virtue of their race, ethnicity, color or national origin, bear collective guilt and are inherently responsible for actions committed in the past by others." The bills also create a training program to prepare teachers to teach the "principles of American civics and patriotism" and it bribes them with a one-time \$3,000 bonus for completing this indoctrination program. In a State where our teacher pay is ranked 50th in the Nation, these bills would only make it harder to teach. It will be another hindrance to the growing problem of trying to keep our teachers and attract more qualified people to teach. These bills will not improve our State's education system, they will take us further backwards. No employers or families will be attracted to come here and those who are able, will leave. This will be detrimental to our State's economy and to the overall intelligence of our citizens. Aside from the burden on teachers and our State, these bills would harm our students. "Critical race theory" is not actually taught in Missouri's K-12 schools. It has become a buzz word to mean any kind of equity education or teaching of true historical events. It is just a political strategy to get more voters to the polls. All students must be taught the truth, painful and uncomfortable as it may sometimes be. We can no longer base our history knowledge on a lie. We must trust students to be able to establish their own perspectives on history. Students and children cannot be manipulated into believing a false history by banning conversations in the classroom about anything that makes certain parents feel uncomfortable. Many of our schools are already not teaching the full history of America, yet racism and inequality still exists, so clearly this approach has not worked. We must learn from our history, or be doomed to repeat it. We will not repeat it. Please oppose this bill and any others like it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY COPENHAVER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-263-5725	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
ADDRESS: 1512 RIDGELINE DRIVE			
CITY: MOBERLY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65270
EMAIL: copenhaver22@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 9:14 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

League of Women Voters of Missouri is opposed to this bill. League is concerned that some of these measures would allow censorship in the classroom which could be harmful to students.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY JOHNSTON HAVERMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: havermann@mindspring.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 2:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am opposed to this bill.1)As long as the larger society is financing a child's education, members of that society have the duty and right to determine what minimum knowledge the child should acquire in order to function as a citizen. The society gives this teaching role to those people who through college education and experience have demonstrated a proficiency in curriculum development and best teaching practices. Very few parents have this background.2) Parents have a right to seek a privately financed education if they want something different. This should not be part of the educational plan determined by society as a whole.3) This is just one more way to minimize the racism in the State of Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE ARB WIETHOP		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arb.nicole@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2023 7:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am opposed to this bill because: This bill codifies things that already exist. The language about what parents can be told could lead to students being outed. The language about the Civil Rights Act will probably lead to districts self-censoring curriculum.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 9:26 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Association appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony on this bill. The Association is concerned that some of these provisions may adversely affect the freedom of teachers to provide the honest education our students deserve and opposes the bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 8:45 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Association appreciates the opportunity to offer its testimony on the bill. The Association is concerned that some of these provisions may adversely affect the freedom of teachers to provide the honest education our students deserve and opposes the bill.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAM HILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: pamhill71@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 8:07 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

As a Missouri parent, taxpayer, and former school board member, I am opposed to this bill. The information included in this bill is already accessible in most school districts without putting an additional burden on our already overwhelmed school personnel. Again, this is also a violation of local control.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT MCKELLAR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mck9@swbell.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 6:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Once again, the General Assembly seeks to undermine public education by imposing burdensome and unfunded administrative mandates on public schools. Naturally, no such mandates are applied to (overwhelmingly religious) private schools, because those are the preferred channel for indoctrinating children into the religion of legislators.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SLOAN SHEFFIELD COWELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sloansheffield13@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2023 8:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 627		DATE: 3/8/2023
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2023 7:42 PM
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Racist proposal seeks to destabilize public education.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TERESA JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: teresa.merlo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 12:01 AM
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No!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TERESA JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: teresa.merlo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2023 5:28 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TERICA DONNELLY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: terica@wasteoftime.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 11:04 PM
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I oppose this parents bill of rights. I have already have rights. We do not need more regulation, when I can just have conversations with people.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TERRENCE FIALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: terrencefiala@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 3:44 PM
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I'm asking you to please not vote in favor these bills as they will only hurt children and are nothing more than a scare tactic to discriminate.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS FERRI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: thomas.m.ferri@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2023 9:41 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Redundant culture war crap. We already have parental rights.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TORI SCHAFFER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-652-3111	
REPRESENTING: ACLU OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 906 OLIVE ST			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: tschafer@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2023 11:19 AM	

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Our children deserve an honest and accurate education that enables them to learn from the past struggles of different communities to help create a better future. However, these bills leave educators unable to discern what honest and accurate information may and may not be discussed with students and will lead to unnecessary censorship of critical classroom discussions. These bills undermine democratic discourse, deprive students of a true understanding of history and deeper learning, and likely abridge rights guaranteed by the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. By seeking to prescribe what parts of our nation's history—checkered with discrimination and oppression—can be taught to today's multiracial students, they intend to deny students the right to receive information and ideas that cultivate deeper thinking and learning. To be clear – these bills do not protect against racism and discrimination in schools. It seeks to ban speech that can help counteract racism and discrimination, including bans on students and teachers talking about race, sex, and notions of equality. Anti-discrimination is plainly not the bill's true purpose since there are already federal civil rights laws like Title VI and Title IX, and similar state laws, that prohibit racism, discrimination, and harassment in schools. These bills disregard the lived experiences of historically marginalized students, who have—time and time again—asked for their communities' contributions and struggles to be acknowledged. Ultimately, it will limit all children's ability to understand current events and learn the life skills needed to navigate these complex situations. The ACLU of Missouri respectfully asks this committee to support the First Amendment and save our state from unneeded litigation by voting no on HB 627 and HB 482.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TRISH GUNBY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: gunbyfamily@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2023 11:09 AM
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Twenty-five years ago, the issue around parental rights and education made news at the federal level. Over the last few years, we've seen these efforts move to state legislatures as evidenced by bills like HB 482, HB 627 and HB 634. Arguments made decades ago are still relevant today. According to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), an educator-support organization that has worked for 80 years on issues like condemning censorship in schools in the 1940s, supporting civil rights and equity in the 1950s and 1960s and protecting the integrity of public schools in the 1980s, their response in 1997 to this issue still holds true. "Now it is time to move away from legislation and the courts and back to our schools and communities to solve the issues that divide us and work for the common good. It is the most we can do for our children." I urge you to reconsider your legislation as it exemplifies government overreach and an expansive effort by the state to dictate what school districts and their boards should be handling. Reach out to school districts already doing the hard work engaging parents and advocating for ALL students. There are hundreds of success stories and I personally know of LGBTQ+ students and families saved by professionals in their school communities. Your legislation will put these families and students at risk. Please stop.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: VANESSA ANN WELLBERY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-325-9303	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ADVOCATES OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION AND SOUTHWEST MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 4251 FOREST PARK AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: vanessa.wellbery@ppslr.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2023 6:58 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

March 1, 2023 To: Elementary and Secondary Education Re: Testimony in opposition to HB 482 & 627 My name is Vanessa Wellbery and as Vice President of Policy and Advocacy of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri (PPSLRSWMO), I testify in opposition to HB 482 & 627. PPSLRSWMO proudly provides respectful, equitable, and evidence-based health services, sexuality education, and counseling for all people, regardless of who they are or where they live, centered in social justice and freedom from all forms of oppression. The reality is that our state and our country has a long history of racism, anti-Blackness, over-policing of communities of color, and state-sanctioned violence against Black communities. This shapes the conditions in which Black people are born, grow, live, work, and access care. We are alarmed at the attempts of HB 482 & 627 to silence students and the educators they trust for accurate information about our history. HB 482 & 627 are an affront to our state's educators who have dedicated their careers to creating an inclusive environment for all young people to learn and grow. This is a dangerous precedent, and it will take Missouri backwards. If our state truly wishes to commit to a better future, one that confronts inequities and reduces access disparities for people who are forced to navigate racist and discriminatory systems, we must all make an honest examination of the past and the present. It requires systemic learning, as well as honest self reflection and sustained, intentional work and education. Instead of discriminatory measures like HB 482 & 627, we encourage this legislature to focus on measures that commit to dismantling systemic racism across our state's institutions, and provide our state's educators the support and resources to advance the wellbeing and academic growth of all students. Please oppose HB 482 & 627. From: Vanessa Wellbery, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy vanessa.wellbery@ppslr.org Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri (PPSLRSWMO)



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: WENDY MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: wendyemiller12@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2023 8:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a graduate of Northwest High School in Jefferson County, MO. I don't remember there being much diversity in high school. I remember going to college and my first college internship where I met people from many different backgrounds and thinking how different it was from being in Jefferson County, MO. I now have a student in the Northwest district and I don't want my child's learning experiences about LGBTQ+ and different races being limited so that they are at a disadvantage when going to college and joining the workforce. It is important to learn how to co-exist people of different backgrounds. I am very concerned that several parts of this bill will harm the education children receive in Missouri schools. Thank you, Wendy Miller