

SB0566

UNF

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Parents have every opportunity to participate in their children's education. This bill does nothing to further that partnership between parent and school. What it does is give parents the legal means to intimidate and browbeat educators into teaching what they want, how they want. This bill is about one thing: control.

The parents supporting this bill want control:

- to decide which books are in the classrooms and school libraries
- to stop a teacher from talking about a family with two dads
- to eliminate any discussion of racism
- to soften difficult history (ex. replacing the word "enslaved" with "involuntarily relocated")
- to eradicate inclusion of LGBTQ persons from any and all curriculum

If you want to see what follows in the wake of passing a "parental rights bills", just look at Florida. That whole disaster started with legislation such as this.

These bills destroy public education. School boards will be overwhelmed with lawsuits from parents feeling their "rights" have been violated. Hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars will be wasted on defending against this litigation. Time and energy will be so focused on litigation, and the real issues will be left on a shelf unresolved. Educators will be harassed to the point of leaving the profession. Schools will become short staffed and unable to function properly. At that point, the "parental rights" crowd will claim public education is a failed institution. They will then move to defund public education by siphoning out tax voucher money and using it for private school tuition. And it all starts with a red herring "parents rights" bill.

We need legislation that will support our educators and schools, not intimidate and destroy them.

Please oppose SB0566.

