

No on SB0916

Hate crimes must be condemned in the strongest terms and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This bill, however, is not going to solve or prevent hate crimes.

Every school is already required to teach history including the Holocaust and contributions of diverse and marginalized populations. Top-down ideologically-driven mandates for academic subjects like this are not helpful. There is no need for this bill and it will cause more harm than good. It creates an adversarial relationship between legislators and the dedicated teachers, school boards, communities, and others involved in education.

Teachers and school districts already have curricula and course materials. The process of reviewing and rewriting and verifying that the plans have the exact focus mandated in this bill disrespects professional educators and the work they have already done and are doing to teach students an accurate and balanced view of history.

The bill specifically focuses on the Holocaust, which is important subject that is already taught in history classes. Additional emphasis on the Holocaust means less time for other significant historical events including China's cultural revolution and the effects of communism and Marxism.

This bill threatens schools with withholding funds and establishes a dangerous precedent of legislative micromanagement and investigation of school curriculum and classroom teaching. Which topics will be next? How many times will teachers have to prove their lesson plans meet this or that new detailed mandate? If the political/ideological balance of the legislature changes, the mandates will swing in the opposite direction.

I urge an unfavorable report on SB0916