

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram and other members of the Committee, my name is Amy Kissinger and I am writing to you today to express my emphatic support for SB 83.

I am currently serving in my 8th year as a local school board member. In that capacity, and also as the mother of a school age child, I have witnessed first hand the phenomenon of extremely left-leaning new teachers coming into the profession and the impact on public education. While the examples I can provide are anecdotal, they do result from my firsthand experiences, and they are compelling to the degree that I have withdrawn my 12 year old son from public education and now provide home education for him.

I wholly support and defend the necessity of civil discourse in the student experience in public education, and in all places in our society. However, my observations as both a school board member and as a parent are that this concept is being hi-jacked in order to turn our classrooms into environments where social justice warriors are being groomed for the purpose of indoctrination to a certain ideology and political end. Conversations that are appropriate for older students are occurring during carpet reading time around librarian's rocking chair, and at single digit ages. It is apparent to me that in order to address this in public education, it must first be addressed in the environment in which our educators are being indoctrinated.

SB 83 does not fix everything, but it is my belief that until we address the areas which are identified within SB 83, all other attempts to right this ship are for naught.

I applaud your commitment to our children and to the sustainability of public education. If these issues are not addressed, parents will continue to leave public education in search of options that do not undermine their parental authority.

As a school board member it is always my intention that issues be approached from a position of neutrality. It is not my desire that public education should lean "right" any more than it should lean "left." It should not lean at all, but that is not our current reality. Our public school buildings are rife with liberal persuasion, and we are in need of the solutions provided by SB 83.