

Chairwoman Sarah Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Mike Odioso, Ranking Member Sean P. Brennan, and esteemed members of the House Education Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in writing today. My name is Sue Barber, a concerned citizen, taxpayer and U.S. Army veteran. I am strongly opposed to HB 486 also known as "The Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act." Charlie Kirk's murder was horrific as is any violence directed at an individual, politically motivated or not, as also happened to Minnesota Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband, and unfortunately the list can go on and on.

The perpetrators of these horrific acts will be brought to justice but to propose a bill that promotes ONLY the inclusion of Christianity into the curriculum of all of our educational institutions is wrong. The bill states "teaching of the historical, positive impact of religion on American history is consistent with the First Amendment." But, once again this bill only includes Christianity. I would also argue that the government must remain neutral in matters of religion and cannot favor one religion over another as this bill does. By promoting one religious faith over others you are doing exactly the opposite of what this country was founded on.

As I'm sure you know our ancestors arrived here fleeing religious persecution, in fact that is what has led so many others to immigrate here, so that they can practice their faith openly and freely. Now members of this House are trying to pass a bill that promotes this one faith in our educational institutions at the exclusion of others. That is the reason our founders knew that church must ALWAYS be separate from the state.

As a veteran, I have been to countries where religious freedom is not tolerated. I ask you to consider my testimony and oppose this dangerous HB 486. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in writing.

Sincerely,

Sue Barber  
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