

Good Morning members of the Education Committee I am writing in opposition of HB486. Specifically the "Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act" section. Our founding fathers believed that a wall of separation should be placed between religion and government. They believed this so vehemently that the First Amendment was added to the Constitution in which it states that "there shall be no establishment of a national religion". James Madison (who is referenced in this bill -"HB486 section K) Reverend John Leland's influence that led James Madison to advocate for a Bill of Rights including the First Amendment to the United States Constitution) stated "*The purpose of Separation of Church and State is to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe in blood for centuries.*" Madison along with Thomas Jefferson felt state support for a particular religion or for any religion was improper. They were aided in this fight for disestablishment by the Baptists, Presbyterian, Quakers and other dissenting faiths. This nation was created as a melting pot of many religions and all of those religions joined in supporting the First Amendment because they knew it was the best way to be able to practice their particular religion without persecution or government interference.

In HB 486 one form of religion ("An accurate and historical account of the influence of **Christianity**") is being promoted, clearly violating the First Amendment.

I respectfully ask that the section "Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act" be removed. Our founding fathers were quite clear on this matter. Religion needs to stay out of our public schools and our Constitution needs to be followed.

I also would like to add that HB 486 is contradictory to the enacted Ohio SB 1 which prohibits faculty and staff from promoting a religious point of view (pg13- section 4 "Affirm and declare that faculty and staff shall allow and encourage students to reach their own conclusions about all controversial beliefs or policies and SHALL NOT seek to indoctrinate any social, political or RELIGIOUS point of view". I understand that SB1 is written for higher learning institutions but I am sure you can see the hypocrisy.

Thank you,

Aprille Hurst