

I strongly oppose SB1.

I attended a small Presbyterian College in North Carolina in the early 1970's, where I double-majored in Religion and Philosophy. We were required to take three years of the core curriculum, then called Christianity and Culture. I am a complete WASP, raised in an entirely white community, (outside of servants).

While this may sound as if I agree with the ideas behind SB 1, my education was designed to make me think and expose me to new ideas. All students were required to take courses in African and Asian history and culture. We had dynamic small classes in which our professors continually challenged us on many levels.

I believe that higher education should introduce students to a wide range of ideas and perspectives without coming down strongly on a particular side. That is what the Socratic method is about, not indoctrination or omitting facts.

Things somehow deemed controversial, like the reality and effects of climate change, are NOT controversial in the scientific world, where the tiniest fraction of professionals would deny we have entered the Anthropocene era. Simply presenting mortality figures from different ZIP codes or demographics doesn't make something about DEI, it is about recognizing health inequities- and then developing ways to change that.

SB 1 is a horrible attack on the best parts of American education. We pride ourselves on developing students who are problem solvers and activists, regardless of their field and their political or religious perspective.

PLEASE DO NOT VOTE FOR SB 1.