

Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 34
Senate Education Committee
3/10/25

Dear Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram and the other members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Danielle Wirick and I am a parent from the Defiance City Schools District. I'm submitting testimony today in opposition to SB34 to express my concern as to the purpose and effect that passage of this bill will have. Some of the documents proposed to be displayed should not be posted for display without the historical context being first taught. I believe this entire endeavor is an effort to couch the 10 commandments with documents that have an actual educational value for the educator to choose from for display within the school. Bills like this are amongst the myriad of bills being pushed by the Center for Christian Virtue to push theology into schools and I think that this is a problematic trend when kids are already not meeting standards in many schools for a myriad of reasons. Confusing children about what deserves their focus in educational settings further distracts from children's educational goals. The public school day isn't the time or place for that kind of solicitation. It belongs in religious schools for those students whose parents have made the choice to raise their children in a particular faith tradition.

Let's take the 10 commandments for example. Whose 10 Commandments get to be displayed? Do we really want to create religious conflict within the school with a policy that promotes the use of the 10 Commandments? If parents want to teach the 10 Commandments consistent with their faith tradition that is easily available enough as posters and plaques to be displayed in one's own home. Even among Christian faith traditions, displays could create conflict. It seems to me that the point is to push one's particular theology onto the students that are not being raised in that faith tradition. I'm honestly sick of this crap. It's like sending my kid to school only for billboards to be placed into the school for the crappiest of microtransaction heavy games to be advertised to my kid all day long and then allowing 80% of the school to leave class to play said game because of RTRI laws. We don't allow Fortnite to be advertised at school because it has no educational value, the game promotes violence, is addictive, and it also tries to compel its participants to constantly throw money at it. We don't allow kids to skip class to play Fortnite for an hour each week. Religious indoctrination is the same. It has no place being marketed to underdeveloped minds without parental consent. This kind of platforming for religious ideology to captive audiences of public school students is a violation of students first amendment rights and an undermining of parental rights. Then you

same people are pushing to promote increasing the number of hours these kids have to be in school with less funding.

The Articles of Confederation should be considered in discussion with the students as a failed precursor to the U.S. Constitution. It deserves discussion but posting it may confuse students about its import without discussion. Depending on the age group, this may cause confusion as to what our actual founding document is.

The Magna Carta should also be explained for its significance. Posting it without explanation could leave students puzzled as to why they're being presented a document that pertains to a monarchical structure when here in the U.S. we do not live under a monarchy. More nuanced discussion is necessary for students to understand why this document is relevant in our government today.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill today.