

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Connor Bacon. I am a field biologist with a MS in biology, focusing on ecology and evolution. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Speaking as a scientist, this bill is disastrous. The heavy focus on 'politically controversial topics' is antithetical to good science education, because things like climate change and evolution, while politically contentious, are entirely uncontroversial in their respective scientific communities. As I am not a climate scientist, I won't dwell on that topic. Suffice to say that 91% of all scientists, and >98% of climate scientists agree that climate change is caused by human activity.

Evolution, however is within my expertise, and I can say with no exaggeration that there is a greater variety and amount evidence for evolution than there is for gravity. It is the foundational theory of modern biology; without it, nothing in biology makes sense. Multiple surveys of working scientists puts the affirmation of the fact of evolution at over 98%. Unlike the example with climate change, that is 98% among all scientists, not just specialists in the field. Among biologists, the acceptance rate for evolution is basically 100%. There is no viable alternate hypothesis. Your bill would allow parents to challenge the teaching of evolution because they have an ideological objection to this most basic fact. In fact, from my perspective this bill is an attempt to run around the landmark *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District* case.

Political bias makes bad scientists, and this bill is a direct attempt to inject politics into the science classroom. I urge you to vote against this insane bill.

Thank you for your time

Connor Bacon