

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1186

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM

Hearing Date: April 19, 2021 10:00 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Tami Hurley

Self

Tyler, TX

I am absolutely against HB1186.

Our Capitol complex Is beautiful with the sculptures and paintings that are displayed . Texas history is rich while it is contained under our 6 flags. All histories contribute to the stories of Texas. History is history... warts and all. Let's learn and do better in our future. Keep the monuments, portraits & even the Reagan building name. Thank you!!!

Jo Ann Henry, Mrs

THIS IS TEXAS FREEDOM FORCE

Yorktown, TX

I Oppose this bill!

You cannot remove or erase history because you remove an item! Learn from HISTORY and make the future better!

Ronny Roberts

This is Texas Freedom Force

Bertram, TX

Historical markers should stay where they are. This is Texas and we are prouder than other states. It is our history that makes Texas what it is. Please leave all objects where they are.

Paige Sanders

self - Realtor

Grand Saline, TX

I am against the portion of HB1186 that will remove certain monuments and portraits, etc from the Capital area. These are all items that are related to the history of our great state. I believe that the expense it would take to remove these items would be better served in educating our school children on Texas history. At that point, the individuals could make up their own minds about the people and events these items represent. Please vote against this bill

Martha Hartzog

self; historian, member of several history organizations

Austin, TX

HB 1186 by Ancira: I strongly oppose this bill on the general grounds that it is not constructive to remove or demolish historic monuments. I would suggest that erecting new monuments to represent undertold stories and also adding explanatory plaques to existing monuments is a more constructive and positive approach. Texas has a rich, diverse, and complicated history. Attempting

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to rewrite or censor history is a bad precedent for now and for the future.

Frank Holman

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing you regarding HB 1186, HB 2571, HB 2713 and HB 4538 . As a youth my father drug me to historical site after historical site. At the time I did not appreciate it. As I grew I began to understand the importance of history in general and in our own history. If history was not important people would not be tearing it down and trying to erase it. History is something we need to learn from. It tells us where we came from and where we need to go. I urge you to vote to send these Bills to the House floor for a vote.

Amy Jo Baker, Dr.

Texas Council for History Education

San Antonio, TX

Hundreds of members of historical organizations are diametrically OPPOSED to removing ALL historical monuments and markers, 90% of Texans that fought did NOT own slaves. Confederates played an important role in reconciliation, education and philanthropy after the Civil War. The story needs to be told in context and NOT erased by the cancel culture. To do so is like the Taliban and Communist China's "Cultural Revolution". As a retired history teacher you teach critical thinking which includes point of view, frame of reference and analysis of point/counter point opposing viewpoints; it is called education versus indoctrination. Stand up for telling the complete story of Texas History. Texans present and future deserve to know our history not replicate 1984!

Rick Featherston, Mr.

Hood's Texas Brigade Association Reactivated

Tyler, TX

I would like you to vote NO on this House Bill. My Ancestor was a member of Hood's Brigade and I do not want their monument taken down as it is a true memorial to our brave Texas soldiers who fought and gave their lives for what they believed in. We can't destroy our History!!

Thanks,
Rick Featherston
Tyler, TX

Joe Allport

Self, Texas Historian/Author

Garrison, TX

The Re-burial of General Albert Sidney Johnston, Texas Hero

General Albert Sidney Johnston died on the 6th day of this month at the Battle of Shiloh. The highest ranking American officer to ever be killed in battle, Johnston's body was buried first in Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans just weeks prior to the successful Union invasion of that city. The commanding occupation general, Benjamin Butler had the grave exhumed because of a rumor there might be treasure in it.

On Oct. 3, 1866, a joint resolution by the Texas Legislature called for the reburial in the State Cemetery in Austin. In January, 1867, there was a grand ceremony in New Orleans when the body was removed with pipe and drums and so forth. The pall

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bearers were Confederate generals including: James Longstreet, Richard Taylor, John Bell Hood, Braxton Bragg, P.T. Beauregard, and Simon Boliver Buckner.

Texas was the only state still occupied by Union troops and under martial law by 1866. The government was concerned because Texas was never successfully invaded during the war and Texans did not feel defeated. The commanding general of the District of Texas, General Griffin, forbade "any demonstrations, public or popular" which cancelled the grand plans made by the State of Texas. When the Mayor of Galveston appealed to Griffin's superior, General Sheridan, the response was that he would not approve honors given to the re-burial of a traitor to the United States government.

When the casket was delivered to Galveston by the Matagorda, it was watched over through the night by 28 old white men and 30-35 black dock workers who wore black armbands. A black hearse carried the General's body along the Strand and other streets leading a long procession of hundreds of people including women and children on a cold bitter day. The Galveston Fire Dept. had draped their fire engines and planned to march in uniform, but the mayor pleaded with them to change their minds because he was fearful of a reprisal by the army.

The same type of observance took place at the next stop in Houston, but the stores were all closed and decked out in black mourning. Crepe was hung from the houses and church bells tolled during the march. The hearse was pulled by "six milky white horses". The train stopped in Hempstead, Chapel Hill and Brenham before the casket was unloaded and taken by wagon to Austin where speeches were given by Gov. Throckmorton and other leaders. The honor guard (no uniforms) this time were young Confederate veterans who carried his body to the Texas State Cemetery where it remains to this day.

Albert Sidney Johnston was a combat veteran, a general in three republics and a veteran of the Mexican-American War, the Black Hawk War, the Texas Revolution and the Utah War prior to the Civil War. General Johnston was an incontrovertible hero and inspirational leader in battle, most famously at Shiloh. Please leave the monuments to our heroes alone.

Kathy Hillman

self - retired

Newton, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill and urge you to vote 'no' on its passage. As Texans we do not need to tear down objects and structures especially on our Capitol grounds. I am sure not everyone agrees with everything about every object or structure. Where do we stop? The earliest of these monuments, etc were placed on the grounds in 1907 and many monuments and objects have followed since then. We should treasure and learn about all of them. What is their history? Who placed them? Learn some Texas history and cherish it.

Jo Foley

Self N/A

Henderson, TX

I do NOT support HB 1186. I am sick of people tearing down, damaging or removing our monuments and statues. These were all very valuable and celebrated at the time that made them significant. Times may change but that does not negate the greatness and good that they did at the time. These are valuable reminders, and not all bad or good. Many people are very unhappy about the trend to disregard our history. Much good was accomplished and many good people gave their lives for it. I doubt seriously that everyone would love what would be put there to replace them. I do NOT support HB 1186.

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Mary Page Jones

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Mary Page Jones, and I'm a 5th grade student at Hyde Park Elementary School in Austin, Texas. I love history, and I am proud of the history of Texas. I am opposed to H.B. 1186 because Mr. Rafael Anchia wants to remove the history that we should remember from the Texas State Capitol. I had many ancestors that fought for the Confederacy, and I am just as proud of them as I am of my ancestors that built Jamestown, and that fought in the American Revolution, and that fought in the Texas Revolution, and of my granddad who fought in World War II. Please defeat H.B. 1186. Thank you.

Mary Page Jones

Member of the Calvin Crozier Chapter

Children of the Confederacy

Teri Wright Mordica

self and my family

Pleasanton, TX

My name is Teri Wright Mordica born in Houston, raised in Austin and currently residing in Pleasanton. I'm 69, recently widowed, mother of 2 sons, proud grandmother of 4 awesome grandkids ranging in age from 10-20.

I am here in strong OPPOSITION of HB 1186 regarding the removal of certain Texas historical treasures.

When I was in school we were taught Texas history, we learned about the Texas Declaration of Independence, Texas struggle against a tyrannical government that forced a national religion and wanted to take away of guns and right to trial by jury. We learned the pledge to the Texas flag, the state motto, song, bird, flower AND that April 21st wasn't just Aggie muster (gig'em) but San Jacinto Day and what it meant AND it was a state holiday.

I'm here because I'm tired of sitting on my couch saying there's nothing I can do, I'm only 1 person, I cannot impact anything. But then one day these words came to me "I was born for this time". For such a time as this...the phrase invokes courage and hope. From the the first time I read the words in the book of Ester, these 6 simple words inspire us towards that one defining moment we all long for...OUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

YOU have the power to make a difference and protect Texas history and Texas monuments and treasures for generations to come. Please do your job and stand up and fight for Texas history.VOTE NO on this bill.

Ella Rubel, LLC Member

Self - LLC Member

Burleson, TX

Please defeat this bill - this does not represent the majority of the Texans. Texans want our unique history to be shown and protected.

Texas men were asked to support and fight for the state of Texas. They answered the call to duty. Stand tall for our Texas history

Karen Robertson, MS.

self

Sugar Land, TX

I am extremely opposed to this HB which wants to remove or rename objects and structures in or near the Capitol. It is a great mistake to remove or water down history to please a few. History needs to be kept and studied, not removed!

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Thank you!

Jimmy Crawford
Self Landscaping
Chatfield, TX

I'm against this bill. I don't understand why part of history has to be erased like it didn't happen. We don't live in a dictatorship where those in power can just get rid of what they don't like. Never before in this state have we seen people demanding that memorials and monuments be torn down. The Confederate monuments and memorials are not racist. It doesn't seem fair and right to tear them down. If people don't like them, then they don't have to look at them.

Timothy Kelley
Self
DEER PARK, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Everything that is being removed is part of Texas history. The War of Northern Aggression was nasty and ugly but people need to learn from history or we will be destined to repeat it in some way. This bill is trying to erase history and should not be allowed to pass.

Isabel Ray, Mrs.
self (communications)
Austin, TX

I support HB 1186. As a history communicator, I know that history matters and that it has impacts on the present. I also know that history is different from honor.

There are many ways to talk about the facts of history, including Confederate history, without giving those figures a place of honor in the people's house. For this reason, I support removing Confederate monuments and portraits from our state capitol.

Removing Confederate memorials is not destroying history; it is choosing to not honor people who fought for the right to own other human beings. Remember the Texas declaration of secession: Texas "was received as a commonwealth holding, maintaining and protecting the institution known as negro slavery--the servitude of the African to the white race within her limits--a relation that had existed from the first settlement of her wilderness by the white race, and which her people intended should exist in all future time." Remember that the declaration of secession referred to a founding principle of America as the "debasing doctrine of the equality of all men." Remember that the declaration of session said this: "We hold as undeniable truths that the governments of the various States, and of the confederacy itself, were established exclusively by the white race, for themselves and their posterity." (Source: TSLAC, <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ref/abouttx/secession/2feb1861.html>) These are the beliefs that Texas Confederates proclaimed. These beliefs are not what Texas stands for today.

Texans must continue to talk about the realities of the Civil War, the backlash against Reconstruction in the form of lynchings and Jim Crow laws, and the lasting impacts of chattel slavery—however, we do not need monumental statues in order to do this. By continuing to honor the leaders of the Confederacy, we show how much we really need to discuss history honestly and openly.

I ask you to please pass HB 1186.

Cynthia Kelley
Self
Deer Park, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill. You can not erase history or re-write history.

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MARTIN KRALIK

SELF

DALLAS, TX

I'M A NATIVE TEXAN, BORN IN SAN ANTONIO, WORKED IN HOUSTON AND DALLAS ALL MY LIFE. I'M 80 YEARS OLD.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1186!!!

LEAVE OUR HISTORY ALONE!

Gwen Withrow, SREC SD 4

SREC Texas Republican Party

Beaumont, TX

I am against the removal of monuments and this bill. Please vote against the bill. Texans want their monuments to remain on the capital grounds. Vote against this Bill.

Scott Wilpitz

Self (Certified Professional Landman- Petroleum)

Dallas, TX

Please vote AGAINST this bill. We are facing a crisis in our State and Nation as we systematically remove statues/monuments/historical markers which don't agree with the "current" regressive movement to erase the true history of our country. We have made mistakes as this great experiment has moved from it infancy to what it has become, but please tell me why people from all over the world risk so much to get to America. Destroying our monuments is historically tied to the Marxist belief system which is inherently oppressive and evil- is that what we want? I pray for those for those that in authority as governments ordained by a sovereign God. May God continue to "shed His grace" on us! Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.

Darlene Sanderson

self. retired

Conroe, TX

HB 1186: I strongly OPPOSE this bill. We cannot enact real and positive change in our society by ERASING and "STERILIZING" our past. "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it". We must be allowed as Texans to celebrate our history, learn from our mistakes of the past, and rise above them. History should be seen in the context of time in which it occurred, and not be judged by the present day's culture and emotions. All history is important...even painful history, and must be preserved and protected....not erased.

Doris Spraggins

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I am AGAINST this bill.

Jeffery Sanderson

Self, This Is Texas Freedom Force

CONROE, TX

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I strongly OPPOSE this bill. As a descendant of some of the first families in Texas, I am proud of my state's rich and diverse history given to all by so many courageous men and women of all races, religions, and cultural backgrounds. We cannot now, or ever enact real and positive change in our society by erasing our past. If allowed to be erased and sterilized, our past is condemned to be repeated. Monuments and memorials honor people and events of the past, which should be seen in the context of the time in which the events happened and the people lived, NOT be judged by the present day's culture and emotions. These people were NOT honored for owning slaves, but for their accomplishments for Texas.

Anne Markwell, Ms.

self/ retired

Dallas, TX

Vote NO/ AGAINST passage of this bill. Our history is something we should learn from. We can't learn from history that is erased from the public memory. It's a mistake to cancel our history to deliberately induce civic amnesia.

Carmen Prince

Precinct chair- Denton County

Coppell, TX

Mr. Anchia,

Please do NOT go against the wishes of the majority of Texans just to please those who do not understand American history. I am against removing or renaming certain objects and structures (whether cement, wood, plaster, copper) located in or near the Texas Capitol. We all should be proud of what those structures represent.

Thank you for listening to this brown woman.

Thank you.

Simina Farcasiu

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill; it is an insult to history.

Carole Haynes, Ph.D.

Self

Hickory Creek, TX

I oppose this bill. Stop the cancel culture now. If this bill passes, then our legislature will have caved to Marxists demands.

Karen Dolifka

Self

Mertens, TX

I am against the removal of monuments, memorials, and names.

History must be remembered.

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JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC
Flint, TX

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC, speaking for the organization:

Grassroots America strongly opposes HB 1186 by Anchia | Relating to removing or renaming certain objects and structures located in or near the Capitol.

Statues, memorials, paintings, and monuments are expressions of a past generation's free speech. To silence the First Amendment Rights of the past is to silence discussion of those historical eras and the cultural, moral, and political results of those times. Texas should not hide or erase historical figures because today's culture rejects a past society's practices, customs, and norms. Indeed, Texas should seek to educate future generations about The Great Cause of Liberty for all mankind with factual historical examples – both good and bad.

The historical expressions specified in HB 1186 should not be removed or renamed.

We ask the House Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee to reject HB 1186.

James Barrett
Self
Timpson, TX

HB 1186, HB 2713, HB 3013 & HB 4538 - Please protect our monuments and memorials. Far too many have already been removed, destroyed or renamed. You can hide history, but you can't rewrite it.

Thank you for your consideration!