

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2497

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: April 14, 2021 8:00 AM

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Betty Pringer

Ironworkers Local 84

Rosenberg, TX

This is an extreme right wing propaganda. Our American tax dollars should not be wasted on this bill. It would not be an efficient to burden educators with this sort of indoctrination of incorrect, untrue, unresearched material to children and students. It appears to be insult to the whole education process. Texas and American history is currently taught in schools. To add this type of material would only be damaging. Say NO to this bill

Shawn Troxell, Ms

Self

New Braunfels, TX

No. This project would teach very biased "history" to our students. I'm a retired teacher and Sm horrified with this. Vote no.

Josh Harless

Law abiding citizens of the State of Texas

Argyle, TX

I support the Texas 1836 project.

Frank Holman

Self

Austin, TX

Please support HB 2497. Preserving and teaching our history is critical to the continued resolute of the liberty that was fought for and we fight to preserve.

Karen King

Texas citizen

Carthage, TX

We are in the environment we find ourselves in due to a denial of history and the attempt of uniformed, uneducated, and unAmerican perceptions to revise the past and ignore the actual demographics of our great state—the legislature needs to retreat from this non-productive issue and focus on our infrastructure and energy supply—this contemptuous tactic is an excuse not to perform your duties and serve the people of Texas—stop posturing and work on issues where actual collaboration and bipartisan cooperation is required.

Natalie Kinard

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self

Kyle, TX

This is nothing but an excuse to whitewash our state's amazing multicultural history. It should be deeply offensive to EVERY Texan!

Maggie Stern, Youth Civic Education & Engagement Coordinator

Children's Defense Fund - Texas

Austin, TX

HB 2497 attempts to respond to the growing bipartisan call for civics education across the state and country, but unfortunately resorts to partisan talking points and excludes the most important parts of a comprehensive civic education: inclusive and expansive civic knowledge and support for civic skills, attitudes, and behaviors.

The history of the state of Texas, like US history more broadly, is a complex one. First, a full account of the land currently known as Texas begins much earlier than 1836, since multiple native tribes have lived on this land for centuries earlier than the Texas War of Independence. Second, this bill implicitly acknowledges that the state did not live up to its "founding and foundational principles" but had to "[grow] closer to those principles throughout its history." Although not explicitly named in this bill, Texas' history of slavery, raids and expulsion of native peoples, Jim Crow laws, and lynchings of African Americans and Tejanos - among other historic atrocities - deserve full recognition in an honest account of Texas history, as do the diverse civic heroes who have advocated for Texas to more closely hew to its founding principles. We are glad to see Juneteenth explicitly named as a pivotal event in Texas history, but would also like to see more explicit acknowledgment of people and events who shaped Texas today into a racially and ethnically diverse state.

We are also concerned that the members of the advisory committee would be chosen by politicians with potential partisan motivations, rather than reflecting ideological diversity or academic qualifications. Language in this bill such as "patriotic education" and "the history of prosperity and democratic freedom" further suggest that the committee will be tasked with producing propaganda rather than a full and honest look at Texas history.

We urge you to oppose HB 2497 and instead support other civics bills such as HB 3211 and HB 57 that would provide Texas students with a comprehensive civics education, and we look forward to working with you on improving civic education across the state.

Donald Frazier, Ph.D.

The Texas Center at Schreiner University

Kerrville, TX

This is a great opportunity to help educate newcomers and natives alike about the grit and gumption it takes to make Texas great. As a college educator for the last quarter of a century, I am a little dismayed by the lack of knowledge about basic history and civics my incoming freshmen come in with. They need to be prepared to lead the Lone Star State in the future. This is a promising first step. In addition, there is clearly a pessimistic narrative emerging about the sins of Texas's past, determined to replace a rather careworn version of Texas triumphalism that could use a general updating. We are a state of saints and sinners, we are organically multicultural without being coerced, we believe in the 10th Amendment of the US Constitution, and we are the envy of the country, and the envy of the world because of our dedication to freedom. This must be cultivated--and this effort promises to do just that. We need a fair and open-minded telling of the Texas story that is accessible to everyone. No better time than now.

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

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I support this bill and urge you to vote it favorably out of committee. Preserving our Texas heritage and passing it on as a legacy to future generations is important. Let's make sure Texas is always Texas, unique, one and indivisible, blessed by God.