

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education  
For HB 1804

Compiled on: Friday, April 21, 2023 12:26 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

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Hearing Date: April 20, 2023 8:00 AM

Annita Taylor, Mrs.

Self

Amarillo, TX

This bill needs to be passed to provide the “teeth” to protect the accuracy in the curriculum.

Sydney Crowe

Self student

Austin, TX

Hi my name is Sydney and I strongly oppose HB1804 because it allows education that is not based in fact to be taught to children. And restricts teachers’ and schools’ first amendment right.

Greg Harrell

Self

Granbury, TX

My wife and I are extremely involved with the issue of pornographic and lewd materials being made available to the children in our public school systems. We urge passage of HB 1804 as a solid step forward in restoring decency and responsibility to our Texas public schools.

Lois McKee

Self

Granbury, TX

This bill is so necessary to protect our children from sexually explicit material. They are in need of the protection of adults who care for them and set up safety and moral guidelines for them. Our future is being destroyed by going after our children.

Monica Brown, Mrs.

self

Granbury, TX

Please pass this bill - it is brilliant and needed. Please continue to make true education the focus of our school system. Students deserve quality resources without being sexualized and indoctrinated. Please support factual resources.

Laura Heffelfinger

Self

Cresson, TX

I am in favor of HB 1804. Schools need to teach facts and not fiction. CRT insinuates racism by making children think the color of their skin is how they are to be judged. Martin Luther dreamed of a nation where people would be judged not by their skin color but by the content of their character. This bill is a step toward leaving the propaganda of Wokeness behind and actually teaching children what they need to know to be successful productive members of our state.

Jeanne Mixon

Self retired

Pflugerville, TX

I am writing to ask you to oppose HB 1804 which would require textbooks to teach the strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories. My granddaughter and grandson attend Texas schools and I am very concerned that if this bill passes it will hurt their ability to attend competitive schools in higher education because they will not have been taught correctly about how science works and there will be a perception that Texas students do not have the educational background to compete with students in schools that have not been coopted by people with an anti science agenda. This bill would weaken our science textbooks and confuse our students' understanding of what is real science and what is theology. Gravity is a theory, but it is proven correct every day. Evolution is a theory that is similarly in evidence every day. Climate change is a theory that is proven correct in the extremes of temperatures that we are experiencing and the unpredictability of our weather systems. To deny our students the information they need to compete in a national and a global society is to condemn all Texas schools to the lowest tier and that includes public schools, charter schools, any school required to use inaccurate textbooks. Everyone has a right to their own views on religion. Texas is a religiously diverse state. Religion has no place in our textbooks and imposing it will only discredit our education institutions. I am a homeowner and a registered voter and I vote in all primaries and general elections. This is an issue that I care deeply about as a Texan and a grandmother with children in the Texas school system. Please vote no on this bill and protect our textbooks from undue influences.

Mary Selby

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB1804.

Elizabeth Paulette

Retired

New Braunfels, TX

Thank you for considering my comments. I am a strong supporter of HB 1804 because it will weigh scientific theory in an objective educational manner which will clearly distinguish the theory from fact and includes evidence from both the scientific and scientific weaknesses of any given theory. I also agree that "violence" should be presented as a context to a cause and should not be sensationalized. Also, all American students should be taught positive aspects of the United States and its heritage, if the material discusses the U.S. and heritage. These are all rational aspects of how students should be taught in the Great State of Texas.

Lai pei  
Self  
katy, TX

I strongly support HB 1804 because this bill can regulate the State Board of Education adopt suitable instructional material to our students. State Board of Education need to make sure all instructional material in our kids' classroom to be

- (1) free from factual errors;
- (2) suitable for the subject and grade level for which the instructional material was submitted; and
- (3) reviewed by academic experts in the subject and grade level for which the instructional material was submitted.

I urge the committee to pass HB1804 to set up our next generation for success.

Thank you.

Beverly Roberts  
Concerned Women for America of South Texas  
Houston, TX

Teach our children factual material, free from indoctrination and immoral precepts. Vote YES on this bill. Thank you.

Mingke Huang  
Self  
Plano, TX

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I urge the committee to pass HB1804 to set up our next generation for success.

Thank you.

Marisa Williams  
self, SAHM  
McKinney, TX

My family supports HB 1804. I retired from public school teaching over ten years ago. I can attest to how much my students appreciated honesty. They were savvy and could spot the sensational passages in any circumstance. They thought critically and therefore had a solid sense of who they were and how they participated in our community. Over ten years ago teachers in my district wouldn't have dreamed of only focusing on one side of a historical event, blaming anyone alive today for what occurred before their lifetime or dividing students by race, gender or any other non-academic reason.

This bill does two positive things:

- 1.) It gives SBOE guidelines and oversight over new curricula.
- 2.) The guidelines are specific and will help ensure that Texas students get a big picture of events in order to prevent gaslighting.

Please voted positively for HB 1804. Thank you.

Mindi Penrod

self

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill in its entirety. There is no 'both sides' to factual representations of history. You must present the wins and the sins, period. This legislative body should not be allowed to write bills which will white-wash our history and present domestic terrorist organizations in a positive light, no way what so ever. There's nothing positive about the evil they bring to the world. You are doing a disservice to the future of honest political processes should you let this bill pass. Our kids deserve to understand history as it stands, not your version! VOTE NO ON THIS BILL.

Alexander Harris

self

Spring, TX

I wish to comment on the faith and beliefs of the religion of Atheism which is being propagated in our science classrooms at the ISDs under the guise of science.

- Our founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence said all men are created equal, and our Creator has blessed them with Rights, which cannot be denied!
- To most the Life & Universe around us is evidence of a Creator, God, however, the religion of Atheism has faith that science someday will have the answers to the Life & Universe around us.
- The Big Bang Theory and Origin of Life through chemical and physical processes which are the founding faith and beliefs of the religion of Atheism are currently taught in our science classrooms!
- Hence, our current TEKS and subsequent curriculum materials are promoting the religion of Atheism in our science classrooms, while suppressing the religion of Creationism. This is a grievous violation of a student's constitutional right!
- So, we need to urge the SBOE to correct this violation by restructuring the TEKS and move the faith and beliefs of the religion of Atheism to our Social Studies TEKS under the study of the World Religions which are founded on three underlying philosophical schools of thought, Monotheism, Monism and Atheism.
- The Big Bang Theory and Origin of Life through chemical and physical processes on the Origin of the Universe and Life around us must be covered by TEKS under the religion of Atheism.
- Evolution by Natural Selection, which is the science of racism, should also be included.

Ligang Lei

Self

KATY, TX

I strongly support HB 1804 because this bill can regulate the State Board of Education adopt suitable instructional material to our students. State Board of Education need to make sure all instructional material in our kids' classroom to be

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- (3) reviewed by academic experts in the subject and grade level for which the instructional material was submitted.

I urge the committee to pass HB1804 to set up our next generation for success.

Hong Guo  
None  
Richmond, TX

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Thank you.

David Jiang  
Self  
Katy, TX

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I urge the committee to pass HB1804 to set up our next generation for success.

Thank you.

Lulu Wang  
self  
SUGAR LAND, TX

I strongly support HB 1804 because this bill can regulate the State Board of Education adopt suitable instructional material to our students. The State Board of Education needs to make sure all instructional material in our kids' classroom to be

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- (2) suitable for the subject and grade level for which the instructional material was submitted; and
- (3) reviewed by academic experts in the subject and grade level for which the instructional material was submitted.

I urge the committee to pass HB1804 to set up our next generation for success.

Thank you.

Cindy Fountain, Ms  
TXUUJM, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry  
Clebure, TX

I oppose this bill. This bill is plain and simple censorship that upends the First Amendment. Thank you.

EVE MARGOLIS

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1804. Requiring teachers to stress “the positive contributions of all individuals and groups to the American way of life” It is a “compulsory patriotism” bill which is censorship, and against the constitution. In each case, it is hard to see how an accurate account of American slavery, Jim Crow, or Japanese internment would survive such restrictions. Learning about the history of our country is necessary to continue to make it better. This bill is based in fear of backlash and guilt of obvious wrong doing of our predecessors.

Cindy Rodibaugh, Mrs.

self

Flatonina, TX

HB 1804 badly needs to be passed because it puts the "teeth" back into the power of our elected SBOE members to make sure that the instructional materials (i.e., curriculum) put in front of students is fact-based, accurate, healthy, and appropriate. Publishers must be required to remove inappropriate, inaccuracies, and harmful content before instructional material is adopted.

EVE MARGOLIS

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1804. This bill encourages the teaching of creationism. Yet another bill to indoctrinate our students that a belief some people have is fact. The author has been trying to get creationism in the curriculum for years. The language in the bill shows the misunderstanding of how science discusses fact and theories. Scientific theories are explanations of natural phenomena built up logically from testable observations and hypotheses.[S]cientists can also use ["fact"] to mean something that has been tested or observed so many times that there is no longer a compelling reason to keep testing or looking for examples. The occurrence of evolution in this sense is a fact."

Christina Bell

Self—educator

Houston, TX

If the wording belie is inserted in an effort to marginalize or penalize LGBTQIA+ persons, the bill should be rejected.

(C) encourage lifestyles that deviate from  
generally accepted standards of society;

If the wording below is inserted in an effort to avoid the teaching of some of the hard truths of American history, the bill must be rejected. Although I support positivity, excluding information (even while negative or painful) undermines discourse and learning and is not upholding the values of democracy we all hold dear.

F) present positive aspects of the United States  
and its heritage, if the instructional material discusses the  
United States or its heritage;

Bonnie Seelig  
Self Retired  
Spicewood, TX

SUPPORT HB 1804

The State Board of Education is an elected body. To delegate the instructional materials and supplemental instructional materials to the bureaucracy of the Texas Education Agency was a HUGE mistake. We want people who know the curriculum and have been involved in schools and instructional techniques.

Vendors of textbooks and online technology have their own interests at heart. They need a watchful elected board! All of the instructional material should conform to state law and state curriculum. This lack of oversight is how we have been including SEL, CRT and DEI in the materials purchased. The curriculum didn't include that, but the 50% of the textbook that didn't include the curriculum did include SEL, DEI and CRT. There lies the confusion when parents kept getting the answer "no DEI, CRT or SEL here." Maybe not in the curriculum, but in the textbooks!

Kathryn Kizer  
Self  
Austin, TX

I am very against this bill. Compulsory Patriotism/Nationalism is un American. The language in the bill is so vague, it could target LGBTQIA people. Who decides what are acceptable community standards? That's what local control is for. Educators would have to teach both perspectives of the Civil War? The Holocaust? Are we pushing Northern Aggression again? Also climate change is real. Creationism is religion. Very passionate about this one.

Trouba Derrick  
Self  
Austin, TX

Please pass HB 1804 It is imperative that these changes be incorporated into public school curriculum. There must be rebuttle to brainwashing currently presented in the public school system.

DONNA ISRAEL  
SELF - RETIRED  
Wimberley, TX

I am in support of this bill! Please vote to protect our children. Thank you!

David Wilson  
Self  
Galveston, TX

Ever since textbook content authority has been taken away from the elected members of the SBOE, textbook publishers have been self-certifying their own textbooks and the results have been disastrous for our children. Liberal academia has polluted all areas of study politically charged ideology that has no place in K-12 education. Please return this authority to the elected SBOE who the voters can hold accountable for results by approving this great legislation.

Connie Aman  
Self  
Austin, TX

I support the changes.

Kelly Simmons

Self Teacher

Austin, TX

I support Texas choosing children's school materials! As a teacher I want objective and truthful reading materials/content taught in schools. Texas text books set the editorial order for the rest of the country with its size and demand.

Julie Martin

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 1804 because I believe it is very important to have the State Board of Education in charge of both the curriculum and the instructional materials (books & technology) used to support the curriculum.

Meredith Gardner

self

Round Rock, TX

I am writing against HB 1804 because of the many concerns I have about this bill. I am a mother of five and four of my children are attending schools in Leader ISD. I am also a friend and relative of several public school educators, and I myself currently work as a media literacy educator for a non-profit organization. I am concerned that the purpose of this bill are not spelled out and that the bill includes many undefined terms and concepts. Under 1(F), it states that curriculum must present positive aspects of the U.S. and its heritage. I have not seen evidence that the curriculum doesn't already do that. Does this bill intend to require the presentation of ONLY positive aspects of the U.S. and its heritage? If so, such discussions would not be educationally accurate. Otherwise, what is the purpose of this point? 1(G) states that curriculum must "present contrasting points of view regarding significant political or social movements in history in a balanced and factual manner." Unfortunately, this cannot be done without legitimizing some viewpoints and historical figures that should not be legitimized. Similar language has led other school districts to pull books about the Holocaust from their classrooms because teachers worried they would be considered insufficiently "balanced." 2(A) would potentially preclude children from learning about the Civil Rights Movement and other movements that relied on civil disobedience. Sections 2(B) and 2(C) mention subjective judgments. Who decides what is "offensive" or which "lifestyles that deviate from generally accepted standards of society?" These terms are not defined and could lead to the prohibition of topics that some members of the Board of Education decide are inappropriate instead of leaving those judgment calls to local school boards and professional educators. Without knowing what problem this bill is intended to solve, I feel concerned that this bill will cause more harm than good. It could lead to the banning of classes like AP African American culture, which my high school student has been excited to take next year. It could also lead to the banning of discussions about gender and sexuality in school, which would further marginalize LGBTQ students and could lead to violations of federal civil rights law. Please vote against HB 1804.

Paul Yamarick

Self

Moulton, TX

Highly endorse HB1804.

susan Lucas

self retired

BRYAN, TX

PLEASE SUPPORT this bill. HB1804

Amy Woodell

PTA

Austin, TX

I opposed this bill and urge the house members to opposed it as well. This is the opposite of educating kids about fact based history and fact based science.



Cassandra Posey

Self

Waller, TX

As a public school parent and former educator, I am in favor of this bill.

Kristen Worrall

self

Austin, TX

This bill is handpicking parts of history and characterizations of history that don't tell a full story, which is damaging to a true and well rounded education. Examples include: (F) present positive aspects of the United States and its heritage, if the instructional material discusses the United States or its heritage; [may not] (A) include selections or works that condone civil disorder, social strife, or disregard for the law (would this include civil disobedience such as the Boston Tea Party? Who gets to decide which civil disorders and social strife are included?); (C) encourage lifestyles that deviate from generally accepted standards of society (NO lifestyles should be encouraged and/or discouraged in class materials as this is a personal choice). We have an obligation to teach truth in our schools, not whitewashed versions of what we want people to believe. That is gross negligence.

Carol Nichols

Self concerned voter

Bryan, TX

I support this bill.

Adair Apple

Self/ Marketing & Events

Corpus Christi, TX

My name is Adair Apple and I live in Corpus Christi. I oppose HB 1804. Textbooks are the primary instructional materials used in public classrooms. Textbooks are based on the curriculum adopted by the state- the Texas Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The TEKS are grade and content appropriate and the TEKS build on information and skills from previous academic years. Public schools already carefully review classroom materials. At the district level, teachers and admin work together to review and choose from textbooks already approved by the Texas Education Agency. Content area specialists are always a part of that process. This legislation is not needed to make sure schools are using factual instructional materials because they are already choosing materials approved by the state.

Right now the focus in education is on developing critical thinking skills. Part of critical thinking is considering alternative systems of thought. This bill says instructional materials should "treat all groups fairly and avoid biases or stereotypes regarding any particular individual, group, or type of work to reflect the positive contributions of all individuals and groups to the American way of life" and "include information needed to develop mutual respect and understanding among all persons". Sounds great! Then we get to the part of the bill that says instructional materials may not "include blatantly offensive language or illustrations" and may not "encourage lifestyles that deviate from generally accepted standards of society". I am very good at using my critical thinking skills. So the language in this part of the bill really concerns me because I know you're referring to LGBTQ+ people. This bill reads as another attempt to censor instructional materials- and especially any reference to LGBTQ+ people. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills teach how to evaluate resources for factual information. I am concerned that this bill will require schools to adopt instructional materials with unfactual and biased information that will put Texas kids at an academic disadvantage. I encourage you to critically evaluate your own biases against LGBTQ+ people and vote against this bill.

D.S. Zamora, Mrs.

Self - Retired

Houston, TX

I am **\*\*OPPOSED\*\*** to this bill.

It's ridiculous, and the author should be embarrassed. Religion should not factor into curriculum in that way.

Deana Johnston

SELF

Dallas, TX

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 1804. We must clean up our school system and this is a great start.

Delaina Bishop

Self/parent

Austin, TX

I HIGHLY OPPOSE this bill.

Lauren Alindogan

self, school library clerk

Austin, TX

I am a library clerk in a public high school. I am against HB 1804 because it would prevent our education system from addressing the full depth of our collective history and current social issues. This bill calls for broad censorship that constitutes dangerous levels of government overreach. HB 1804 would weaken students' ability to comprehend and engage with many elements of civic, scientific, and social discourse.

Donald Hamilton

Self

Smithville, TX

I am FOR HB 1804.

J Canciglia

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Austin, TX

My name is J Canciglia. I'm a disability advocate for a living, and have been studying disability history and theory for the past 13 years. I am against HB 1804.

HB 1804 concerns me due to its inclusion of rules addressing the presentation of contrasting viewpoints regarding political or social movements and the prohibition of studying works that condone civil disorder, social strife, or disregard for the law.

People with disabilities didn't get their rights by being nice. The United States has a long history of dismissing people with disabilities who go through legal channels for advocacy that are begging for their lives. I see us being dismissed all the time down here -- even now, this year.

The history of disability advocacy and every one of its foundational successes in this country was built upon the principles of civil disobedience. Disability advocates blocked traffic on Madison Avenue in New York City in 1972. They chained themselves to the Capitol rotunda in DC for the ADA, to protect the ACA, and more. They took over government buildings across the US in 1977, one particular instance lasting as long as a month. Google "504 Sit-in" if you want to learn more about that.

Students with disabilities deserve to know where the rights come from. The works of every major disability rights activist say in their pages that, eventually, there comes a time when we stop asking for our rights and we take our rights -- we stop asking to keep our rights and defend our rights. Students with disabilities deserve access to the works of these key historical figures within the movement. They also deserve to be free of "contrasting views" regarding the acquisition of their rights.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was vetoed twice by Nixon over concerns of cost. Is the appropriate contrasting viewpoint to be presented in opposition that concerns over cost are greater than a child with a disability being able to get a free and accessible public education? Or to be able to vote when they turn 18? A key facet of the disability rights movement was that disabled lives are worth living. Is the contrasting viewpoint to be presented without bias that disabled lives are not worth living? That disabled people shouldn't have access to the broader community and should live their lives outside of the public eye? That they should live and die in an institution? That they should not have accommodations on the job so they can work?

Y'all, this bill ain't it. I'm asking you reconsider strongly this bill's various inclusions and intent.

Melissa Rowell

self

Houston, TX

I support this bill and ask that it moves favorably to the House.

Rebecca Hamilton, Mrs

Self

Smithville, TX

I am in favor of HB 1804. Curriculum should reflect the values of the majority of people and should be established by elected officials who reflect those values. Please vote FOR HB1804.

TerryHB 1804 Kosobud

Retired

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1804. This allows unsubstantiated, and false materials to be taught in schools. Instead teachers and the PTRAs should decide.

Julie Rix  
self  
Houston, TX

The responsibility of a child ultimately belongs to the parents. It's a fact that parents share the reward or consequences of the actions of their child. Parents are responsible for making choices regarding the welfare of their child. Therefore, NO information that affects their child should ever be withheld from parents. Well informed parents are able to make good choices!

Jennifer Henry  
None  
Cypress, TX

This is absolutely important and needs full support. This gives the parents back their rights and say on our children's education.

Kate Chiang, Self  
Self  
Richmond, TX

I strongly support HB 1804 because this bill can regulate the State Board of Education adopt suitable instructional material to our students. The State Board of Education needs to make sure all instructional material in our kids' classroom to be

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I urge the committee to pass HB1804 to set up our next generation for success.

Thank you.

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Zenobia C. Joseph, Educational Consultant/Policy Analyst

Self - A+ WRITERS Consulting

Austin, TX

Teach Civil Rights Movement Facts!

1. Contradictions: In the context of teaching the Civil Rights Movement, HB 1804 includes contradictory language. A teacher may “present contrasting points of view” but is required to “avoid biases or stereotypes[.]” Alabama Governor George Wallace, for example, was biased and embraced segregation. "Eyes on the Prize documentary included a clip of Wallace infamously pledging, "Segregation today; segregation tomorrow; segregation forever." Years later, he apologized (Washington Post, 1995). It is also contradictory to state that a teacher “may not: include selections or works that condone civil disorder, social strife, or disregard for the law[.]” Requiring a teacher to avoid stereotypes contradicts the historical record. Issues such as eugenics and white supremacy reflected the viewpoint of some figures in history. Current discourse, including Elon Musk, reframe these stereotypes in a contemporary context (Vice, 2022). How then should Musk be discussed?

2. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: It is disingenuous to celebrate (have a day off) for Dr. King's Birthday while outright banning his philosophy. "Like Gandhi, King used civil disobedience as a means of effectuating government change. It took the form of large-scale, non-violent refusals to obey government commands. There were sit-ins and marches, all carried out against the wishes of local authorities." <https://www.findlaw.com/legalblogs>

3. Example: “The Civil Rights Movement is an example of the use of civil disobedience to protest laws, policies, and practices that citizens consider unjust to individuals. The public protest against these laws and government policies took place in the form of sit-ins, bus boycotts, and marches” (Ruth Thompson-Miller, n.d.). Ruth Thompson-Miller is Visiting Associate Professor of sociology at Vassar College. Her research specializations are race and ethnicity, mental illness, and the elderly." She is the co-author of four books, including: “Jim Crow’s Legacy: The Lasting Impact of Segregation, Systemic Racism: Making Liberty, Justice, and Democracy Real, Not Your Grandmother’s Movement: Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter” (Vassar College, n.d.).

4. Amendment Recommendation: Strike “condone civil disorder” language. Replace condone with historical facts. State that a teacher may select work that condones civil disorder to provide historical context, and permit students to discuss pros and cons.

5. Primary Source Reference: Eyes on the prize: America's civil rights years, 1954-1965

WorldCat <http://www.worldcat.org> > "The definitive story of the Civil Rights era from the point of view of the ordinary men and women whose extraordinary actions launched a movement[.]"

6. My Scholarship: Joseph, Z. C. (2009). “I-35 Divide” Conundrum: Can a True Community-University Partnership Grant Austin’s Gifted/Talented K-12 African-American Males Access to College? Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy(XV), 9-35.

Thanks.~zsj

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Hearing Date: April 20, 2023 8:00 AM

Donna Gail Garner

self

Waco, TX

I have been highly involved with the Texas State Board of Education for over 30 years, and Rep. Leo-Wilson's HB 1804 is one of the most important pieces of legislation this session. HB 1804 badly needs to be passed because it puts the "teeth" back into the power of our elected SBOE members to make sure that the instructional materials (i.e., curriculum) put in front of students is fact-based, accurate, healthy, and appropriate. If our elected SBOE members through the public hearing process finds inappropriate, inaccurate, harmful content that goes against the well-stated standards set in HB 1804, publishers are required to remove that content before the instructional materials can be adopted.

Neal Frey

Self -- Texas public school textbook analyst

Longview, TX

I MOST EMPHATICALLY SUPPORT passage of Rep. Leo-Wilson's HB 1804 !!!

Anne Newman

Self

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Please support HB 1804.

Carol Adkins

self - retiree

Waco, TX

I am a former educator as well as a grandparent so am very concerned that our children get a quality education that is objective, fact-based, unbiased and true. I believe it is imperative that this bill be passed so the SBOE will have the necessary power to insure curriculum being taught meets these standards of a quality education.