

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
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COMMENTS FOR SB 10 by King | et al.

Natalie Zambreski
Self - Small Business Owner
Weatherford, TX

As a mother of two public school students, a former educator, and a proud Texan, I am vehemently opposed to SB 10.

It is appalling that at a time when our public schools are struggling under historic underfunding, overcrowded classrooms, and severe teacher shortages, the Texas Legislature is prioritizing political theater over real solutions. Mandating religious displays in classrooms does nothing to improve academic outcomes, student mental health, or teacher retention. It wastes time, resources, and public trust.

The hypocrisy is staggering. Legislators who constantly invoke “parental rights” are now attempting to trample the rights of parents like me who believe in the constitutional separation of church and state. You cannot claim to champion freedom while forcing a singular religious doctrine into every public classroom.

This bill is not about history or “heritage” — it is a blatant attempt to push government-endorsed religion onto children, regardless of their individual faiths, beliefs, or backgrounds. It opens schools up to lawsuits, wastes taxpayer dollars, and distracts from the very real crises our education system faces.

If you truly cared about the values you claim to defend, you would be passing legislation that ensures every child, regardless of zip code, has access to a safe, well-funded, high-quality public education — not using classrooms as billboards for your political agendas.

I urge you to oppose SB 10 and focus instead on the real needs of Texas families and students.

Kayla Cooper
Self, teacher
Fort Worth, TX

This is absolutely ridiculous. Schools do not and should not advocate for any one religion. Public schools are welcoming of ALL students they serve. This is absolutely ridiculous and does nothing but alienate students and families - or allow certain ones to feel superior to others. Freedom of religion must include freedom from displaying information that comes from one specific religion or religious text. This is 100% inappropriate for any public space, but especially for a school of children.

Aletha Huston
self
Austin, TX

Promoting a particular religion should not be done in a public school classroom. Please vote No on requiring the Ten Commandments in every classroom

Joey Hughes
Self/technician
Dallas, TX

The only pest for this to be acceptable in any capacity is of the equivalent the Ten Commandments for other religious are placed in the classrooms. Otherwise there is no reason to include them as it is discriminatory against anyone that does not belong to the Cristian faith

Raschel Harbison
Self / Parent
Kyle, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 10, which would require all Texas public elementary and secondary schools to display a specific version of the Ten Commandments in every classroom.

First and foremost, this bill raises serious constitutional concerns. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits government endorsement of religion. Mandating the display of a religious text in public school classrooms is likely to be viewed as government promotion of a particular faith tradition, in direct conflict with the Establishment Clause. If enacted, SB 10 would almost certainly invite costly legal challenges, diverting public resources away from educational priorities and toward litigation. Second, SB 10 undermines the religious diversity of Texas students and families. Texas public schools serve children from a wide variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds. Requiring the display of the Ten Commandments-an explicitly religious document-risks alienating students who do not share these beliefs and sends a message of exclusion rather than inclusion. Public schools should be welcoming environments for all students, regardless of their faith or lack thereof.

Third, the bill imposes an unfunded mandate on school districts. While SB 10 allows for the acceptance of privately donated posters, it does not provide state funding for compliance. Districts that do not receive donations would be forced to use limited local resources to purchase and display the required materials. This is an unnecessary administrative and financial burden at a time when schools are already facing significant challenges.

Finally, the role of public education is to teach, not preach. Moral and ethical instruction can and should be provided in a way that respects the separation of church and state and honors the pluralism that defines our communities. There are many ways to promote good citizenship and character without mandating the display of a religious text.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject SB 10 and uphold the constitutional principles and inclusive values that serve all Texans.

Leah Gregersen
Self/ educator
Rochelle, TX

I am a Christian and an educator. I'm also a mother, a former foster parent, and a concerned citizen. I'm a community volunteer and advocate for the rights of all people. It is because of my strong faith that I strongly oppose this bill. Some say that bringing God back into schools would solve the problems of the world. God being "pushed out" of schools was never the problem. Solomon said "there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9), and he was right. Sin entered the world through the mis-step of one man and one woman in the garden. If you know your scripture, you are aware that Adam was right by Eve as she was deceived. From that moment, the world was set on a course where the only salvation we needed could (and would) come through the redemptive power of Jesus Christ. What the world needs (including public schools) is for Christians to behave like Christians. We need people to live out the NEW Commandment Jesus gave us at the last supper with his disciples about 2000 years ago... the commandment was this: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 NIV??

So, I ask you, will adding the 10 Commandments to the wall of every classroom in Texas somehow fix your "morality problem"? I can assure you it will not. What the State of Texas, The USA, and the World needs is more love. More servant leadership. More devotion to Christ than to political leaders or policies. More patience for those with whom we disagree. More acceptance and tolerance for those who are different. There is a time and a place to stand on principle. Equip your school administrators to set rules and enforce those rules in order to create a culture of safety, respect, and civility within schools. But posting 10 rules from the Old Testament are not going to change people over time. Christians acting like Christians can change people. Even other religions behaving in prosocial ways and also encouraging their own followers to behave in prosocial ways will make our great state better. Forcing people to follow your religion never goes over well. Check your history books (think Crusades). And if I'm not mistaken, the 10 Commandments are actually Jewish Law, so I'm a little confused on why modern Christians push this so much. The final point I'd like to make is that we have a country that used to pride itself on separation of church and state. This idea that we are a Christian nation is absolute nonsense. We may have had founding fathers who were believers; however, they themselves saw the problem of mixing religion with politics. That's part of why they left Europe in the first place! They wanted freedom of religion. We are backpedaling by trying to force all schools in the state to have a Jewish set of laws on the wall!

Melissa Konur
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose the inclusion of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. There should be separation of church and state. Not everyone at school is Christian, nor should you enter a public school and be forced to observe only one religious tenant.

Lindsay Patterson
Self
Terrell, TX

There is a separation of Church and state. I am a proud catholic, yet still understand that the ten commandments do not belong in a school.
When the government pushing this , doesn't even follow the commandments themselves. You have already pushed for the ridiculous school voucher scam , let the private schools do what they want. Unless you are going to represent all religions, this is just wrong and alienates students that do have the same religious views. How about protecting kids from school violence , or fully funding public schools , or teaching actual history , instead of banning books.

Georgia Wheat
Self, Tech Executive
Austin, TX

Texas public schools are filled with children of every race and religion by design such that our children may become more tolerant of different opinions, beliefs, and family structures. Parents who desire a specifically Christian education for their children should pursue private school, per the Texas bill that just passed to allow funding to be removed from public schools to partially fund private. The ten commandments do not belong in our public schools anymore than the Koran or the Torah do. Please do not alienate children on the basis of religion, being a kid is hard enough already.

Lauren Ehrlich
Self, teacher
Weatherford, TX

As a parent, teacher and lifelong Texan, I am against SB 10. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education. Public schools should respect each student's and family's faith and/or spiritual traditions, not favor one religion over others or none.

I want my child to learn about the 10 commandments in an age appropriate way at church and not at school with no context.

SB 10 is not about religious freedom but about control. Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.

True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.

Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.

Students deserve to learn in a safe environment, not be exposed to a singular, narrow worldview.

Guenivere McAllister
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Religion does not belong in a public schools. Seperation of Church and State was what was expected of the founding members of the USA. Unless you plan on having multiple religious texts in the classrooms.

Dede Fox
Dede Fox
The Woodlands, TX

As a native Texan and a retired educator with forty years experience in public schools, I appreciate your service to the state of Texas. I am against the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms because I believe in the separation of church and state. There are different forms of the Ten Commandments which reflect different religions. The students here in The Woodlands come from diverse religions or no religion at all; it's not the government's role to take on the role of religious training, which is the role of parents. It's none of our business as PUBLIC school educators. Religious training should take place at home and in religious schools.

Hannah Du
Self / Warehouse Associate
Houston, TX

The freedom of religion applies to all religions (monotheistic, polytheistic, atheist, and agnostic), so why go out of your way to represent just the one? This bill is not leading us towards representation of all religions and bringing communities of students, parents, teachers and staff together. It is dividing them and favoring Christian sects over an alienated and dehumanized "other." Leave the Ten Commandments in Sunday schools (read: CHURCH).

Lindsey Jorge
Self
Saginaw, TX

Displaying something in my classroom that says thou shall not murder is going to cause more problems than solutions. Rewriting this to be age appropriate changes the language and original meaning in context. Most schools have a program that has students abide by a visible code of conduct. This is essentially the same thing. Assuming that students who do not follow Christianity will abide by or use this when it is clearly Christian is not reasonable. A common code of conduct made by and agreed upon by the students and teachers is far more meaningful and likely to be followed. Agreeing not to murder or commit adultery in a 4th grade classroom is going to bring up more issues than solutions.

Marcia Grissom, Retired teacher
Self
Richardson, TX

I taught math at Berkner High School in Richardson, one of the most diverse schools in the state, for 32 years. Math is difficult for many students and so not only did I teach the content, but I was a motivator and encourager. When my students felt known and understood, they worked harder in my class and were more successful. Although I had many posters on my walls to motivate and encourage students, I would never post the Ten Commandments. I am a Christian, but I would not run the risk putting a barrier between me and a student by publicly posting the Ten Commandments. My job was to teach math, not religion in a public school. And I can assure you a poster is not going to affect behavior. DEI initiatives where students are encouraged to look for the good in others and respect each other will improve behavior!
Please vote no to S.B. 10

Hiral Mistru
Self
Houston, TX

This violates the first amendment and the freedom of religion. Y'all should be focused more on education children to help the economy and bring in innovation to boost in the revenue for the state instead of the commandments

Kristin Glass, Ms.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Good evening. I live and am an educator in the Fort Worth area. I want to voice my opposition to SB10. I am a proud Presbyterian /Christian. However, I do NOT want government involved in religion. We have churches for Christian's education and direction. This bill does not reflect the diversity of religious beliefs in our Texas schools. While a Christian, I do not want someone else's version of Christianity (read: Christian Nationalism), such as is reflected in this bill, forced upon me. It is also an unconstitutional merging of church and state.

For the reasons above, please reject this bill.

Thank you for your time and service.

Holly Gorman

Self, Texas Parent

AUSTIN, TX

The last time I checked, the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States states that the government shall make no law establishing religion.

Also, I'm pretty sure that the Ten Commandments is a religious text. Here's Commandment 1, as found in the New International Version of the Bible: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." Yup, that looks religious.

Requiring the public schools post such a text is clearly blatantly illegal if we take the Constitution as the law of the land.

As a parent, it is my right and duty to dictate my children's religious education as I see fit. The state has no right and no legal role in intervening in such a deeply personal space.

Nancy Kasten, Rabbi

Faith Commons

Dallas, TX

I am registering my opposition to this bill. I am a rabbi and have taught Biblical Hebrew at Perkins School of Theology. If you post the 10 Commandments at all, they should be posted in the original Hebrew, since every translation is an interpretation. But my real objection is that religious texts do not belong in public spaces and religious does not belong in public schools. Let me point out that many elected officials in our state and in our country have been judged guilty of breaking some of these commandments in courts of law. Students learn ethical behavior by example, not by treating the Bible as a slogan to be plastered on the wall.

Jeremy Lopez, Mr.

Self

Houston, TX

Don't do this. US is about freedom of religion and not promoting one religion in particular. We should not exclude others and this is what this does by promoting one religion and not all the others. It's unfair to make one over the other.

tania ahmad, mrs
self
katy, TX

My name is Tania Ahmad, and I am a native Texan, a Houstonian. That sentence is something I have repeated with pride through my lifetime. As such, I believe all Texans should vote AGAINST SB 10 by King.

As a first generation, Native Texan and American, I have been blessed to see the beauty of the diversity of our Lone Star State. The way my parents were embraced by the Texas Southern Hospitality when they individually immigrated here for higher education in the 70's, was a major part of why they chose to make Houston their permanent home. My mother is from South America and grew up in a strict Catholic household. My father is from the Middle East and grew up in a predominantly Muslim refugee camp. Despite their differences, they met in 1972 at a party thrown by a kind Houston couple for international students who were staying in Houston for the winter holidays. That chance meet, fueled by the Southern Hospitality I mentioned before, is why I exist today. Unfortunately, my experiences as a child in the public school system during the 80s to mid-90s were not along the same path. I was often ridiculed for my different looks, religion and my parents' accents. It was not until I went to a High School that offered the International Baccalaureate that my experiences changed to that of comradery amongst most of my peers and a desire for cultural expansion. I believe the reason for the variation of my experience in lower grades versus my experience in upper grades, is because I was in an environment that embraced all cultures and religious beliefs. The walls of my high school hallways spoke of community, experiences, diversity in languages and beyond. There was no one religion predominantly represented, just as our founding fathers intended. The action of respecting the First Amendment as written by not imposing a religious belief, is what allowed for my positive and inclusive high school experience. As someone who is raising two native Texans, one about to enter high school and the other at the beginning of their middle school journey, I pray that they too can continue to go to public schools that focus on the education of books, community and inclusivity not theological teachings. The separation of church and state is imperative to allow us to uphold the free exercise of religion and a community of inclusivity. Families have always been welcome to attend a private school that teaches religion, if that is a component they desire. However, a school that accepts government funding and is run by ALL zoned taxpayers' dollars, should not now or ever push forth a theological ideology that does not represent each individual who has funded the school. Voting for SB 10 would be a vote to go against what our country was founded on, which is a true travesty for our children, for our community and for our ability to grow as a state. Voting against SB 10 is being FOR the first constitutional amendment. So, I implore you, vote AGAINST SB 10. Thank you.

Tom Sagona
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is Unamerican! Religious freedom does not mean forcing your religious beliefs on others. You also already are subsidizing private schools, so if someone wants to see the 10 commandments, then they need to send their kids to a private Christian school.

Traci Stewart
Self
JARRELL, TX

I oppose this unconstitutional bill. Vehemently. Religious paraphernalia has no business in public schools. I send my child to school to be educated, not indoctrinated. I don't want values that are in opposition to mine taught to my child. Religion should be kept at home; which aspects are taught at home should be at the discretion of parents/ caregivers. Furthermore, displaying religious paraphernalia of one religion alienates children who follow other faiths or no faith at all.

We don't live in a theocracy. We separate church from state. We have freedom of religion but also and more importantly freedom from religion. Just as you wouldn't want me instructing your child in matters of faith, I expect the same courtesy with regard to mine.

This proposal is not a small thing. It symbolizes a violation of the constitution and of America itself.

Patricia Steely
Self
Southlake, TX

This is a direct violation of the Constitution and should not be allowed in public schools.

Nima Mistry
Self
Sugar Land, TX

This is unfair to people of other faiths. Not everyone is Christian. Keep religion out of schools!!!

Xperanza Uviedo
Self Attorney
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. Not all children are Christian or are members of religious organizations. This bill makes implies that one religion is preferred over another, which is unacceptable in a country founded on principles of religious freedom.

Amy S
Self
San Antonio, TX

I REJECT this bill. A bill mandating the display of the Ten Commandments in classrooms violates the constitutional principle of separation of church and state. Public schools serve ALL students- a diverse group of religious and non-religious backgrounds. Promoting a specific religious text undermines religious freedom. Such legislation risks government endorsement of religion, potentially alienating students and families who do not share those beliefs, and invites costly legal challenges. Education policy should focus on unifying principles, not religious imposition. Your constituents and taxpayers come from all religions and non religious backgrounds. The constitution clearly calls for separation of church and state. Respecting the diversity of all students and upholding constitutional values must remain the foundation of our public education system.
Thank you.

Carolina Marin
Self
Frisco, TX

If the Ten Commandments can be displayed in school, so can the fundamental teachings of other religions. If you are allowing opportunities for Christianity, please also make room for Satanic and Luciferian teachings, amongst other religions.

NO RELIGION IN SCHOOL.

Joshua Fixler, Rabbi
Self, Rabbi
Bellaire, TX

Hello, I am Rabbi Josh Fixler from Houston. I am opposed to Senate Bill 10 and I ask the committee to vote against it.

As a rabbi, I know that the 10 Commandments are a resonant religious symbol. Which is exactly why they have no place in a public school classrooms.

There are those who would argue that the 10 Commandments are universal. This is simply not true. There are many faiths where the 10 Commandments (and the Hebrew Bible more generally) do not play an important role. Some people feign towards this idea of universality by saying that the 10 Commandments are a "Judeo-Christian" symbol. It is true that Jews and Christians both read the Hebrew Bible. But we cannot even agree about the numbering of the commandments, let alone their meaning. Jews, for instance, count "honor your father and mother" as the 5th commandment, while in many Christian versions, this is the 4th commandment. I imagine that state officials have no intention of putting a version of the 10 Commandments in classrooms that features the Jewish numbering (or a version in the original Hebrew, for that matter). We all know that the version that would be put in classrooms according to this law is far from universal. It is specifically and exclusively Christian.

There are others who argue that the 10 commandments had a profound influence on the development of America. This is also false. There is no compelling evidence that the 10 Commandments had a specific influence on the Founding Fathers. Some were men of faith, others were not. But neither the Declaration of Independence nor the Constitution quotes from the bible. God is mentioned in these texts only sparingly. If the Founding Fathers were such big fans of the 10 Commandments, they failed to indicate that in the founding documents of our country. But even if it were true that they were inspired by the bible to write these enduring documents, that would be an insufficiently compelling reason to put them in every classroom. They were also deeply inspired by John Locke, but I do not hear anyone calling for copies of his treatises on government to be placed in every classroom in the state.

I proudly send my oldest daughter to public school. And next year, my twins will join her there when they enter kindergarten. And I feel comfortable doing this, in part because I am confident that their education will be free from any religious indoctrination. They come to my Sunday school to learn about our faith, but they go to public school 5 days a week to learn math, science, and reading. I shudder to think how it would feel for my children, or any other non-Christian students, to look up every day and see a religious symbol being forced upon them. Let us keep public schools safe for students of all faiths and none by ensuring that the schools remain secular and free from religious iconography. Please leave the faith education to clergy like me and let public school teachers do what they do best. Please vote against this bill.

Sheri Allen, Cantor
Makom Shelanu Congregation
FT WORTH, TX

As a Cantor (Jewish Clergy) with my own congregation, I find SB10 to be a serious threat to religious freedom, and I ask you to vote against it. It is problematic on many levels. By endorsing only one translation - the King James Version - the implication is that this is the only correct interpretation - and that is simply inaccurate. As someone who chants from the Torah on a regular basis, I can tell you that there are even two different versions of the 10 commandments in Exodus and Deuteronomy! And if reading material is under such strict scrutiny in schools, the Bible is chock full of inappropriate subject matter. How will a teacher explain adultery to a child? Will they be able to address the fact that "thou shalt not kill" (which is actually translated as "thou shalt not murder" in the Torah) makes an exception for capital punishment? Or war? Does a teacher really want to parse what it means to not violate the Sabbath? Because according to Jewish law, writing, driving, spending money, or even turning on a light switch are all forbidden. These are discussions for religious school, not public school. Forcing students to face Bible verses that reflect a particular belief system that may not correspond with their own, would only serve to alienate students of other faiths or no faith, and subject them to marginalization, bullying or worse. Freedom of religion is one of the fundamental principles of our democracy. Please, do not strip our children of this right. Vote no on SB10.

Debbie Saavedra
N/A
San antonio, TX

I object to this bill! Do not require the 10 commandments in our schools!

Nichollette Tarpeh, Ms.
Self, student
Houston, TX

Please do not pass this bill, no one should be mandated to practice teachings from a particular religion in school.

Lindsay Suhor
Self, parent of public school students
Flower Mound, TX

I urge the committee to vote AGAINST SB 10. I am a mother of 2nd and 4th grade girls enrolled in our local public school in North Texas (Lewisville ISD). It is completely inappropriate to have religious documents prominently displayed in public, elementary school classrooms. I do NOT want a teacher explaining to my 2nd grade child what adultery is, which is exactly what will happen if the Ten Commandments are prominently posted in her classroom. If a parent would like to provide their child with religious instruction they should attend a church service or one of the private, religious schools, which our taxpayer dollars will soon be paying for due to the passage of SB2 . This bill truly is indoctrination. Our public schools need to be a place where students of all faiths and no faith at all can feel safe and welcome. Again, please vote NO on SB10.

Thank you,

Lindsay Suhor
Flower Mound, TX

Patricia Dicoste, Ms
Self
Bellaire, TX

OPPOSE!!!

Maria Arredondo
Myself
San Antonio, TX

I am totally against this bill. I'm against religion in public education. Public education should be for every body

Christopher Tanguay
Self (High School Teacher)
Sugar Land, TX

My name is Chris Tanguay and I teach high school for Fort Bend ISD. I have been following the development of SB 10 and feel compelled to comment and express my vociferous opposition to the bill for a number of reasons. To begin with, requiring the ten commandments to be displayed in my classroom would in essence be compelling speech from me as it is a christian religious text (despite arguments by some that it is a valid historical document) and I am an atheist. Having such a text prominently displayed in my classroom is tantamount to a tacit admission of the validity of its contents and claims and by extension the faith tradition that it represents. This goes directly against both my rights as laid out in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and as expressed in 1943's "West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barnette" in which it was determined that "no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.". In addition to the violation of my rights, it also presents, I think more importantly, a divisive presence in my classroom as displaying a religious text would indicate that that religion is primary and superior to other faiths or to no faith at all. I pride myself on having a classroom environment that is accepting of all students regardless of any of their characteristics and I do not wish for them to walk in to a room that indicates that one belief system stands above the rest. Displaying this document could potentially make a student feel uncomfortable or lesser and make my classroom a less safe space for them.

Speaking now as a parent, I would like to point out that a good portion of the Texas legislature and our current governor are big proponents of what they call "parents' rights". I do not agree in the least with how they deploy it, but would like to point out that if they chose to do so, the blade cuts both ways. I have two children in school in the same district that I teach in and I feel it is my right as a parent to not have them subject to having a religious text (of any faith tradition) posted on every classroom wall as though it were an integral part of the mission of their public school. Let that be the domain of privately funded religious schools and be in no way included in any public-school classroom. My children do not need any religious dogma literally hanging over them. I would ask then that the author of SB 10 and its supporters consider how they would feel if others were trying to impose texts from other religions on their children, or put up documents suggesting that there is no such thing as a god in their children's classrooms. I suspect they would cry out against it, and they would be right to do so as it would be against what they view as parental rights and more importantly against their First Amendment rights. Let this bill die. Sunday school is for Sundays.

Charles Ladwig
Self
Georgetown, TX

Hello,

I am a parent and spouse to an elementary school teacher who lives in the Georgetown area, with my wife working for Hutto Independent School District. I am testifying in regards to SB-10 mandating the The Ten Commandments in all class rooms in all public schools in Texas.

I would like to start by saying: my spouse and I are in no way religious, however, we respect religious freedom and those who practice their own forms of religion. I would like to point out that SB-10 is in direct violation of the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights. In mandating The Ten Commandments be presented in all classrooms, you jeopardize, not just alienating students of diverse cultures and religions , but also forcibly indoctrinating said students. As a parent who is of no religious faith, I would not appreciate nor condone indoctrination of children to any religion. This bill will do just that; and not all parents of Christian values would approve of this motion; these Commandments need to remain in religious schools, where they are meant to belong.

My next comment is regarding an unintended consequence: in passing this bill, you also will bring about many other religious communities that will request amendments to this bill to include their tenets or idols. This has happened in the past; I am referring to Cave v. Thurston in Arkansas where The Satanic Temple sued the State for not allowing their religious idol to be erected next to the proposed Ten Commandments statue, on grounds of favoring one religion over another in privileges of religious freedom. The Satanic Temple had this case dismissed, and would not get their own religious statue on government property, but Arkansas would also dismiss the bill on grounds of religious freedom and separation of church and state. The point here, is that by mandating religious text to be presented in a classroom environment outside of literary or scholarly studies, this bill will also invite other communities, including The Satanic Temple, to amend having their religious beliefs incorporated in the classroom; this will also open doors to litigation against the bill and the state.

Lastly, if this bill passes, this will also alienate many teachers and their religious beliefs. I recall having several teachers in my academic years being of varying religions, including Islam, and Tao. Having these Commandments posted will successfully alienate teachers from their identities and what they can teach. Not all teachers will be able to answer questions about the Commandments or what they mean to students, especially if it's not their own beliefs; this will lead to many teachers being forced to learn and teach beliefs that are not theirs.

Teachers and students have rights in their First Amendment right; this bill will only continue to forward our schools to being theocratic institutions by force. I beseech our representatives to vote No on SB-10 and keep public education religiously free for all.

Thank you for your time.

Pamela Nolting
Self - retired teacher and banker
Kingwood, TX

I ask you to vote down this bill. Students deserve to learn in a safe environment, not one with documents displayed from a religious tradition they may not share. Vote "NO."

Celeste Fahnert
Self
Leander, TX

I respectfully urge the members of the Public Education Committee to OPPOSE SB 10.

This bill, mandating the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms, is an unconstitutional overreach that undermines the religious freedom of all Texans — including Christian Texans like myself. Our public schools are not Sunday Schools, and the government should not be in the business of dictating religious doctrine, even when that doctrine is familiar or personally meaningful to many of us.

SB 10 is a clear violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. It forces religious expression into public schools funded by taxpayers of all faiths and no faith. This is not "moral instruction" — it is government endorsement of a specific religion, opening the state to costly lawsuits we cannot afford.

Beyond legality, this bill sends a dangerous message: that to be accepted in our public schools, one must adhere to a particular religious view. That's wrong. Our classrooms should be welcoming to ALL children — Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, atheist, agnostic, and everything in between. Texas students deserve to be respected for who they are, not judged based on whether they align with the government's chosen religious text.

If we want to instill strong character, compassion, and ethics in our children, we should invest in excellent teachers, mental health supports, critical thinking curricula, and safe, inclusive campuses — not symbolic political statements.

As proud Texans, we should be protecting the religious liberties of every family, not playing politics with our children's education. SB 10 is a distraction from the real issues facing our schools: chronic underfunding, overcrowded classrooms, a teacher shortage crisis, and worsening student mental health. Focus on those. That's what real leadership demands.

Please reject SB 10 and keep our public schools neutral, inclusive, and focused on educating — not indoctrinating — the next generation of Texans.

Pamela Silk, Rabbi
Self
Houston, TX

My name is Pam Silk and I live in Houston. I am writing to ask that you oppose displaying the Ten Commandments in public schools.

As a parent of public school children in Texas I value that my children are learning in environments free from religious symbols and indoctrination. One of the reasons my husband and I chose to send our children to public school is to ensure they are exposed to all different kinds of people. This is one of the richest parts of living in Houston and is beautifully represented in our public schools. There is a place for every single student and all are welcome. Were the Ten Commandments to be posted in classrooms it would suggest that Christian children, or children who come from homes that practice the Christian faith, are uniquely recognized or special since their religious language/text is posted where others' are not.

As a congregational rabbi I want all children to learn their religion from their faith community, not their school community. Thank you for helping to keep public schools welcoming and accepting for people of all faith and backgrounds by not allowing the display of religious symbols, including the Ten Commandments.

Sharon LaDay
Self
Houston, TX

My parents chose to raise me in the Christian faith with continuous church attendance and education. They did not have to contend or compete with public schools presenting other, conflicting perspectives on Christianity. My parents had full control of religious education, and they exercised that control. Displaying the Ten Commandments in public schools infringes on parents' rights on when and where to exercise religious expression and education.

Francesca Talbert
self
Wylie, TX

Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs, or none. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education. The government oversteps its authority with this bill. This is an attempt to erode the separation between church and state. It is unconstitutional.

Mary Recio
self retired
Austin, TX

Vote no. Parental choice what religious education the student receives.

Emily Kaszczuk
Self/parent
Leander, TX

I am writing to oppose SB 10 as a parent of two public school students in Leander ISD.
SB 10 is not about religious freedom but about control.
Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.
True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.
Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.
Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others.
Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education. Many legislators have argued over and over, particularly during the voucher debates, that parents should have the choice to direct their children's education. This bill is blatantly hypocritical. If parents wish for their children to receive religious education, they may seek out religious instruction elsewhere.
I ask that you oppose SB 10 and stand up for the religious freedom of all Texans.

Elizabeth Alanis

Self

Houston, TX

As a parent, I feel that there is separation of church and state. It is a parent's prerogative to lay the moral groundwork for their children. Displaying the ten commandments will not contribute to the curriculum in any way. It will not enhance the learning experience. It has no place in a public school classroom. A voucher bill just passed that allows for all of those parents that would like to invest in a religious education for their child to do so. Enough has been taken from the public school system. Adding a list of commandments appears performative and questionable. Does this then open the door for other religions doctrine? It's a slippery slope that will surely upset the Christians that long for parental rights except when it comes to those that say no to the ten commandments being displayed in the classroom. Displaying the Ten Commandments doesn't help students learn how to write a paragraph or add fractions. It leads to moral questions based on religion and doctrine that every teacher may not have the background to discuss. If parents don't trust a teacher to pick an appropriate book, how will they trust a teacher (that may not be Christian) to explain the tenets of Christianity? Think secular as that is what a public school classroom is; religion in the classroom crosses a line that will lead to litigation. Students aren't as astute as you think: many will never read those commandments for the entire school year. So make it easy and leave them where they belong: in church.

Jay Fisher, Dr.

Self/Engineer

Alamo Heights, TX

I am a constituent of Senator Campbell. I am asking you not to require display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. I think that religious teaching should be kept out of the classroom and left for the parents to decide. The Ten Commandments are not universal. Not all religions have the Ten Commandments. As a Jew, the system for numbering the Commandments I was presented with differs from that of the Catholics, and there are differences in translation also. What should a teacher do if a student looks at the full translation and asks questions: what is adultery, why don't we keep the seventh day as the Sabbath, my church has images of things in heaven? Please read the 10 Commandments and decide if it is really appropriate to post them in every classroom.

Thank you very much for considering this sincere input.

Mary Brown

self

Georgetown, TX

Placing the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms subjects all children to religious messages that neither they nor their families have chosen. Texas has many religious traditions, and children should not be forced to participate in teachings that are not compatible with their families' beliefs. Schools should not promote religious teachings to this captive audience of children. Families should be the ones to direct a child's religious education. When the legislature dictates a religious teaching of one faith tradition that elevates that religion over all others. This would appear to be a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This bill should not be passed out of committee. Please act in the best interest of all children and teachers in our public schools and reject SB 10.

Heather DeCutler

Self

Bedford, TX

I URGE members of the House to vote NO on SB 10. I can quote the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” (American Civil Liberties Union, 2022) I’m not saying that students can’t display their own religious beliefs in the classroom by bringing a Bible to read or wearing a Star of David necklace or fast during Ramadan, I’m saying that choosing to print a Brobdingnagian poster of ONE religion’s scriptures forces that said religion on so many others. Would you argue if there was a poster of the Pillars of Islam in classrooms telling YOU what to do? The Seven Fundamental Tenets of the Satanic Temple? I mean, explaining to a Kindergartner that “the freedoms of others should be respected” (Satanic Temple 2020) is A LOT less awkward than when they ask about adultery. In the same vein, I can refer to Statutes in Texas’ own Constitution. In the Education Code, Chapter 21.459, which establishes parameters for Bible training courses, Section 4 states, “proficiency in instructional approaches that present course material in a manner that respects all faiths and religious traditions, while favoring none.” I want to reiterate “respects ALL faiths and religious traditions, while favoring none” (EDUCATION CODE CHAPTER 21). How can educators follow the requirements of this code if the 10 Commandments show favoritism to one religious tradition? I could quote the Bible! Matthew 6:1: "Be careful to not practice your righteousness before others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." According to The Bible Project, “Jesus describes this way of doing righteous deeds for social approval as the way of the [“hypocrites”], which referred to actors on a stage. Jesus then focuses on three of the most popular ways to display righteousness before others: praying, fasting, and generous giving.” Wouldn’t the time, energy and money used to create these posters be better spent making sure that our students are safe? Fed? I feel like that’s more likely what Jesus would do. I could give you a teacher’s perspective. Like many teachers, I have a limited amount of space in my classroom. Many classrooms around Texas sit empty. This goes back to the question of cost and energy to hang a poster that would be relegated to a room marked for storage because SB 10 states “in each classroom of the school”. That sounds like a lot of effort for very little reward. Could we get pencils instead? Lastly, I call to question the security of the faith of the writers and promoters of SB 10. Do you not trust your own God to be powerful enough to reach the hearts of children in Texas? Do you admit an all-knowing creator of the universe can’t reach without a poster in each child’s line of sight? Who are you trying to impress? The Texas House wants to grant parents the right to make choices over their child’s education; why not for their faith?

Mary Werner

Self; American Association of University Women, Austin Branch

Cedar Park, TX

I am opposed to this effort to bring Biblical teachings into the classroom. This is clearly unconstitutional, as well as disrespectful to children and their families who are not of the Christian faith. Religious teaching should take place in the home or place of worship, not in a public school. Some of the tenets of The Ten Commandments are age-inappropriate for elementary and even middle school-age children — the topics of adultery and coveting are perfect examples. Please allow teachers to teach what they need to teach in the time available to them. Any religious proselytizing is a distraction. I urge you to vote no on this bill. Thank you!

Ishaan Mistry

self, Electrical Engineer

Allen, TX

If we must display the Ten Commandments, then we must display the Hindu Yamas and Niyamas, and all the other religious peoples "Commandments", to keep it equal. And that is a requirement. And if someone believes in a new religion, you must put theirs on that same wall. With the same size font.

This will not work. It does not follow the constitution that formed the United States. Do not pass this bill. It is a waste of time, when we could be focusing on uplifting the lives of children via education resources and events.

Marisa Bernard

Self- stay at home mom

Boerne, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. I send my children to public school to receive academic instruction, not religious teachings. I want my children to receive religious instruction from myself, my husband, and those we trust- not from a state-selected version of the 10 Commandments. I am very shocked that the same Legislature that just passed “parent choice” vouchers would try to take away my parental choice as regards my children’s religious upbringing.

Gretchen Pierce

self, stay-at-home mom

Austin, TX

I oppose SB 10. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others and goes against religious freedom, which we are supposed to have in this country. The Ten Commandments do not reflect my family’s religious beliefs, and posting them in classrooms would be disrespectful to us and all Texas families who hold diverse religious beliefs.

As SB 2 (the private school voucher bill) moved through the legislature, I heard from a lot of legislators about the need for parent choice. Why does that not also apply to religious beliefs? If I want to teach my children the Ten Commandments, that should be my choice and I can do that at home. The government does not get to make that choice for me by placing the Ten Commandments in my children’s public school.

Please do not pass SB 2. Texas students deserve inclusive learning environments that respect all faiths.

Kristin McGrath

self

Austin, TX

My name is Kristin McGrath, and I live in Austin (78753). Thank you for the opportunity to oppose SB10. Religion is important. It should also not be coerced or taught to a child without parents' oversight. Families (parents) should have the ability to lay the foundations of their children's own religious values. This bill would cause a specific version of a religious text to be displayed (without context) in an environment where it would be open to interpretation by teachers, students, and others who may not match the religious values parents would like to teach their kids. Families who can't afford to send their children to private religious schools of their choosing (or who don't live near one) would lose the ability to shape their kids' faith, due to the government deciding to mix public education and religion. My own extended family is a diverse mix of religions (including diverse branches of Christianity who often agree to - lovingly - disagree with EACH OTHER). But, currently, they can all send all their kids to the same local public school and trust that parents can then select a church and interpretation of scripture that matches their family's values. This law would compromise that. Plus, the inevitable constitutional challenges to the law and inevitable complaints parents will have when the 10 Commandments framed on the wall incites a classroom discussion will distract from the (numerous) distractions already standing in the way of kids getting a quality education. Schools should focus on curriculum. Let families and Texas's many capable houses of worship navigate religion.

Hector Curiel

Self, vet tech.

HOUSTON, TX

Reconsider this blatantly unconstitutional action. My daughter's, who are in public Texas schools, should not be susceptible to ridicule by peers based on the display of this antiquated myth in public government property. This will be a slap on the face for our founding fathers and people who have fought to make this great nation of ours-a personal freedom haven. Pushing religion in our most vulnerable, kids, impedes them to grow knowing what is a true blank slate on their developing thought. It is a most cynical action to force otherwise.

David Bernard, Mr
Self
Boerne, TX

Separation of church and state. You open this can of worms and every religion will want to display their own religious beliefs in the school. You're already pushing students to private schools with voucher program. Let them go to private school if they want the ten commandments. If you put the 10 commandments in public schools then you will need to display other religions because you can't discriminate against citizens of the United States. Songet ready for Hindu and Muslim teachings. This stupid Christian Nationalism need to stop. I was born and raised Roman Catholic and believe in the Ten Commandments but this is crazy! "Give unto Caesar, what is Caesar's.". Christians don't need to play in politics either. Christ never needed the support of a government to spread the Word of God and neither do His disciples. Let acts of kindness and love spread Christianity, not acts of Congress.

Richard Ertel
Self
Mountain Home, TX

I oppose SB 10 because it requires the display of a religious teaching in all public schools in violation of the Constitution's requirement of the separation of church and state. I further oppose SB 10 because it favors one religion's translation of the commandments over the translations of the commandments by other religions.

Mathew Baumgartner
Self
Allen, TX

This proposal is terrible, unrepresentative, and unconstitutional. It flies in the face of our country as it was conceived almost 250 years ago just as it runs contrary to the country we live in today. No creed should be advanced, even tacitly, in the halls of our public institutions; not for adults and especially not for children. I cannot emphasize enough how vehemently I oppose this bill, or how anathema it is to our nation's laws and ideals.

It should be soundly rejected, and scorn heaped on those who brought this forward for consideration.

Jacob Schrum
self
Georgetown, TX

I do not want the ten commandments displayed in public schools. It is a clear violation of the religious freedom granted by the First Amendment. The First Amendment should protect religious and non-religious minorities from the tyranny of the majority, and there are plenty of students in public schools that are either non-religious or belong to a non-Abrahamic religion. Telling Hindus, Buddhists, and others that they should have no other gods is a smack in the face of their religious freedom, and a clear violation of the First Amendment. Even Judeo-Christians should not want these displayed. Do you want teachers explaining to curious kindergarteners that they shouldn't commit adultery? Why should this word appear anywhere in an elementary school classroom? Jews and Christians can't even agree when the Sabbath is, and many Christians don't even bother to take that day off, yet we're supposed to keep that day holy? This rule has nothing to do with morality. Regarding the commandment to honor one's father and mother: if you really cared about parents' rights, then you would leave religious instruction (or lack thereof) in their hands, and not violate parents' rights by trying to religiously indoctrinate their children in ways they are opposed to. Of course, the real damage is that the visibility of these commandments indicates government support for certain religious traditions over others, and introduces unnecessary intrusion of religion in what should be a welcoming learning environment for all students. Posting the commandments will draw negative attention to any student who is not part of the dominant religion. You would not sanction the posting of rules and commandments from other religions. You would not allow Sharia law to be posted in US classrooms. The claim that the ten commandments are somehow important in US history is a bogus argument, because the enlightenment ideals behind the founding of this country are in direct opposition to some of the commandments. The First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Your proposed bill establishes Christianity as a state religion and infringes on free exercise of other religions (or non-religion). Do not put the ten commandments in Texas schools.

Dianne Phelps
Self
CENTER, TX

Keep Church and State separate! As a concerned citizen, I strongly oppose SB 10, the bill mandating the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. While the Ten Commandments have undeniable historical and cultural significance, requiring their display in public schools violates the foundational American principle of separation of church and state.

This bill not only undermines religious freedom by favoring one particular religious tradition over others, but it also opens the door to legal challenges that could cost taxpayers dearly. Public schools serve diverse communities—including students of many different faiths and those with no religious affiliation—and they should remain inclusive, neutral spaces where all students feel respected and welcome.

Government should not be in the business of endorsing or mandating religious doctrine. Instead, we should focus our efforts on strengthening education, supporting teachers, and ensuring our schools are safe, equitable, and well-resourced.

I urge lawmakers to reject SB 10 and uphold the constitutional values that protect both freedom of religion and freedom from government-imposed religion.

Morgan Collier
Accountability Matters PMA
Talco, TX

VOTE YES on SB 10, unamended: The scheduling of SB 10 on CAIR Texas Muslim Capitol Day raises eyebrows, especially given attempts in the Senate to dilute its purpose. This bill, allowing schools to display the Ten Commandments, is a nod to our Judeo-Christian heritage, and I strongly support it—provided it passes with ZERO amendments. Let's keep it clean and constitutional.

SB 10 affirms the historical and moral foundation of Texas, rooted in principles like “Thou shalt not steal” and “Honor thy father and mother.” Displaying the Ten Commandments in schools isn't an establishment of religion; it's a recognition of the values that shaped our laws, as upheld in cases like *Van Orden v. Perry* (2005). The First Amendment prohibits Congress from establishing religion, but it doesn't ban states from acknowledging their cultural roots. Texas isn't a theocracy, but it's not a secular vacuum either.

Senator Eckhardt's attempt to amend SB 10 to include the Five Pillars of Islam was a cynical ploy to muddy the waters, and shame on Senator Hughes for supporting it. Such amendments aren't about “inclusion”; they're about derailing a bill that honors Texas' heritage. The Ten Commandments are universal principles, not a sectarian mandate. Adding other religious tenets risks violating the Establishment Clause by favoring specific faiths over others, creating a legal mess.

This bill doesn't expand government; it simply allows schools to reflect community values. But the timing on Muslim Capitol Day suggests a coordinated push to dilute its intent. VOTE YES on SB 10, unamended, to send a clear message: Texas honors its founding principles, not political gamesmanship.

Kristin Klade, Rev.
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Fort Worth, TX

As a Christian pastor, mom of two in public school, and lifelong Texan, I am staunchly opposed to this bill. I would not want other folk's religious creeds or laws displayed in my child's classroom, and as such, it is not moral, ethical, or sensible for me to insist on displaying mine (i.e. the Ten Commandments). Practically, why does my child need to be learning about "not coveting their neighbor's spouse." Who is going to explain this to them? Who is teaching them about the context of the Ten Commandments: where they came from? who they are for?

This is not a lesson any public school teacher should be teaching. This is a brazen violation of the first amendment and sets a terrible precedent.

Please vote "no."

Chris Donofrio
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 10.

How many times do we have to waste valuable time on this issue?
This legislature has far more important work to finish in the next month.

Displaying the Ten Commandments in public schools is unconstitutional. The US Supreme Court has upheld this several times.

Displaying the Ten Commandments in public schools sends a message to every non-Christian student that their religion, or lack of one, really isn't important to those in charge.

This is bothersome since the Christians most identified with such efforts, Evangelical Protestants, make up only 27% of Texans. They are closely followed by the Religiously Unaffiliated at 26%.

PEW Research (2025) reports the religious make-up of Texas, in rank order:

- Evangelical Protestants: 27%
- Religiously Unaffiliated: 26%
- Catholics: 22%
- Mainline, and Historically Black Protestants: 15%
- Muslims: 2%
- Buddhists: 1%
- Hindus: 1%
- Jews: <1%

Displaying the Ten Commandments in public schools will radicalize children, grooming them in the ways of White Christian Nationalism. Not something I want to see happen.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 10.
Please, kill SB 10 in Committee, and end this time-wasting cycle.

Respectfully, Chris J Donofrio

Karen Pay-an
Self
Houston, TX

Highly doubt children need to be reminded "not to steal, commit murder or adultery, or bear false witness to thy neighbor" as much as politicians and police need to be reminded. An infographic display on what tariffs are and how they actually work would be a better display to everyone.

Erin Mulholland
Self
Montgomery, TX

I OPPOSE this bill. Separation of church and state is enshrined in our Constitution. The principle of separation of church and state is a core tenant of American democracy, enshrined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This principle, often visualized as a "wall of separation" between church and state, means the government cannot establish a religion or interfere with the free exercise of religion, while also ensuring individuals' right to practice their faith without government interference.

Jennifer Kost, Mrs.

self (stay at home mom, volunteer in schools)

Austin, TX

Dear Chairman Buckley and members of the Committee,

Please vote no on SB 10.

The State has no business promoting Judaism or Christianity in public education, much less mandating the display of religious commandments in every classroom.

To be clear, I don't object to the Ten Commandments; I try to obey them, and I hope everyone else will too. But the separation of church and state protects believers of all faiths (and of none), and also protects religion, which flounders when dictated by government, and faith, which cannot be coerced.

As it says in article 1, section 6 of the Texas constitution: "...No human authority ought, in any case whatever, to control or interfere with the rights of conscience in matters of religion, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious society or mode of worship..."

Please follow the US and Texas constitutions, save our state money by avoiding lawsuits regarding this bill, and save our school districts a little money by not requiring them to purchase hundreds of thousands of copies of the Ten Commandments.

Thank you.

Kevin A Hale

The Libertarian Party of Texas

Dallas, TX

Opposing Government-Mandated Religious Displays

Preserving Religious Freedom and Limiting State Power

SB 10 mandates the display of the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom across Texas. While the Libertarian Party of Texas (LPTexas) respects the right of individuals to practice and express their religious beliefs freely, government coercion to promote specific religious texts within taxpayer-funded schools violates the principles of religious liberty and limited government. Public education should not be a vehicle for state-endorsed religious messages.

Separation of Church and State Protects Freedom

The Libertarian Party of Texas (LPTexas) affirms that the government should not dictate or influence matters of personal conscience, including religious belief (Platform § I.1.a). Forcing religious displays into public schools infringes on the rights of students, families, and teachers of diverse faiths—or no faith at all. True religious freedom means keeping the government neutral on religious matters, not using state power to favor one tradition over others.

Government Should Not Dictate Matters of Conscience

State-mandated promotion of religious texts politicizes faith and threatens the voluntary nature of religious belief. SB 10 risks turning matters of personal conviction into government propaganda, eroding the voluntary, peaceful practice of religion that thrives best in a free society. Schools should foster critical thinking and mutual respect—not impose one-size-fits-all religious messaging on students.

Respect for Parental Authority and Local Control

Decisions regarding religious instruction belong to families, communities, and individuals—not to the state. SB 10 strips local control from school districts and undermines parental authority by imposing a blanket religious standard from the top down, ignoring the diversity of beliefs among Texas families.

Conclusion

The Libertarian Party of Texas opposes SB 10 because it violates religious liberty, expands government control over matters of conscience, and undermines the neutrality necessary for a free and tolerant society. We urge lawmakers to reject SB 10 and reaffirm the essential principle that faith must remain a matter of individual choice, free from government interference.

Jackie Kostreba, MS
Self/Retired
Round Rock, TX

As your constituent, I urge you to vote NO on SB 10.

SB 10 mandates that every public school classroom display a government-prescribed version of the Ten Commandments. This bill is not about education — it is about state-imposed religion. It undermines the First Amendment, jeopardizes religious freedom, and opens our public schools to costly lawsuits that will drain taxpayer resources.

Public schools should be welcoming to every student, regardless of their faith or beliefs. Forcing religious texts into classrooms sends a clear message of exclusion to students and families who may practice a different religion — or none at all. That is not the Texas I believe in.

Our classrooms should be places where students learn critical thinking, science, history, math, and literacy — not places where the government dictates religious doctrine.

Please stand up for the Constitution, for religious liberty, and for the right of all Texans to raise and educate their children according to their own beliefs.

Vote NO on SB 10.

Claudia Orduna
Self
Missouri City, TX

My name is Claudia Orduña, I am a mother of two children in school as well as an educator with over 15 years in public education. I am writing to express my disapproval of this bill. This bill takes identity and the acceptance of all who reside in this great state. It instills a sense of superiority of one and represses others. Thank you for your time.

Tyler Landrum
self, inventory management
Austin, TX

Disapprove: administrative display of the Ten Commandments in a public school constitutes an act of respect for an establishment of religion by a government body, and is thus unconstitutional.

Tammy Conrad
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am opposed to SB 10. I have been a classroom teacher in public schools for almost 20 years. There are lots of things I put up on the wall to support my students in their academic learning. I am not a Sunday school teacher. I do not have time to teach the Christian Ten Commandments. I do, however, provide social emotional learning as required for all of my students, whether they are Christian or not. We learn about honoring each other and treating others as we would want to be treated. We have conversations about what is ethical. We do not need a poster in our elementary classroom talking about adultery. As a Christian, I follow the Ten Commandments. But I respect the families of my students and they're right to teach the religion of their choice to their children at home. Please vote no on SB 10.

Kay Pruett, Dr.
Self - retired teacher
Austin, TX

My name is Dr. Kay Pruett. I've been a Texas resident since 1992. I'm writing to urge you to oppose SB 10 by King.

I am a person of faith, specifically a Christian. I am also a product of public schools for all the years of my education. This is also how we raised our own children. My professional career was spent almost entirely teaching in public schools. And I've also been a Sunday School teacher at various times since I was a child. The separation between church and state has worked well for my family.

The 10 commandments are a part of my faith and I have taught them in Sunday school in the context of the history and practice of my faith. As a school teacher most recently it has been my job to teach reading skills and critical thinking associated with those skills. I use materials targeted to the needed skills. Never in 14 years of being a reading teacher would the 10 commandments been a good choice for that. Separating the 10 commandments from the context of religious instruction and inserting them out of context in public education is inappropriate for both situations.

Putting the 10 Commandments in public schools lacks appropriate context for religious education and is the wrong material for instruction in almost all public school classes. It is also is a serious violation of our foundational principle of separation of church and state. Finally, it is a waste of money that is needed elsewhere. The schools are desperately in need of more funding for instructional and support staff materials and building up keep.

Please oppose SB 10.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth Walters
Self/student
Fort Worth, TX

My name is Elizabeth Walters, and I am a Texan that attended public school before I went to college. Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs. Students already have the right to pray, read religious texts, and express their faith at school. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 1009. Families—not government—should direct their children's religious education.

Vote NO on HB1009 and protect true religious freedom in Texas public schools.

Laurie Duke
self/parent
Fort Worth, TX

I am writing in opposition to SB 10, not because I have no faith but because I do. As a Christian, we are called to live Christ's example. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms changes nothing and is a hollow representation of our faith. There are so many good things that this body of elected officials could be doing to support our schools in meaningful/impactful ways. Making sure teachers are certified in the lower grades, reducing class sizes and removing exemptions for Districts of Innovation etc. There are bills filed that address real issues and sit waiting to be heard in committee. Faith is not forced. Our schools need to be focused on education. If I want a faith based education for my children I will seek it out via private schools. That is freedom of religion. Support bills like HB 3702, HB 3384. Support educators having a voice as the experts in their work HB 1077. Give them the funding, tools, supports they need to do the work not posters.

Jenny Brown
Self
Canadian, TX

Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation. I oppose this bill. Furthermore, I don't want my child indoctrinated at school. This is not our religion. And if our lawmakers, all the way from state reps to the White House can't follow these commandments no matter where they are posted, it's pure hypocrisy to ask schools to put this garbage up on their walls when Jesus' greatest commandment—love thy neighbor—can't even be displayed in an All are welcome here poster. This is a plain violation of separation of church and state. Mandate this for ALL private schools and charter schools as well, then maybe you'll have a better argument.

Andrea Hilkovitz, Dr.
Self
Round Rock, TX

The United States is not a Christian theocracy, and religion has no place in public schools. This law will serve only to make some members of our community feel less welcome and open Texas to lawsuits from those whose rights it treads.

Lisa Brenskelle
self
Houston, TX

It is not appropriate for a text from a particular religious faith to be displayed in public school classrooms, as this promotes that faith. The specific language of the ten commandments espoused by this bill is Christian, and potentially only represents certain Christian traditions, as different translations are used by different Christian traditions. This makes students of other faiths, other Christian traditions, or no faith, unwelcome in the classroom, and gives the false impression that specific forms of Christianity are endorsed by the state as the true faith. Texas has one of the largest Muslim populations in the U.S. and the second largest Hindu population. Posting of a Christian religious text would therefore be offensive to a large number of students and would appear to be an attempt to indoctrinate students of other faiths, such as Hindus and Muslims, in tenets of the Christian faith.

Rachelle Mann
Self
Flower Mound, TX

The display of the Ten Commandments in classrooms raises significant constitutional and practical concerns. While these texts hold deep religious significance for some, public school classrooms must remain neutral spaces that welcome students of all faiths and backgrounds.

The First Amendment's Establishment Clause specifically protects the separation of church and state, ensuring that public institutions don't favor any particular religion. If we allow the Ten Commandments to be displayed, we must then provide equal space for sacred texts and symbols from all religions—including those from Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and other faiths, as well as non-religious perspectives.

Moreover, some religious concepts in the Ten Commandments, like adultery, aren't age-appropriate for young students and could lead to uncomfortable conversations that belong in homes or religious institutions, not public schools. Texas parents should retain the right to introduce religious concepts to their children in ways that align with their own values and beliefs.

Our public schools should focus on creating inclusive learning environments where every student feels respected, regardless of their religious background. This is best achieved by keeping religious instruction separate from public education while teaching about religions from an academic, historical perspective when relevant to the curriculum.

Julie Long
Self, teacher
Cypress, TX

Our country was founded on the principle of the separation of church and state. This bill is in direct conflict with that standard. Additionally, the Ten Commandments being displayed in public schools will not cause students to make better choices, nor will they convert students to Christianity. Besides, the New Testament was rendered obsolete when Jesus was born. His primary commandment was to love others. How about if that is our focus, not the posting of rules which are completely irrelevant to students (murder? Adultery? Are these really words we want posted in an elementary school?

Sabrina Ball
self
Fort Worth, TX

This is a clear violation of the Establishment Clause and another BIG GOVERNMENT push by Republican Christian lawmakers. A 5 year old doesn't need to know about coveting thy neighbor. Work on the damn economy! It is NOT your job to police religion.

Susan Perez
Citizens for Education Reform
Lubbock, TX

I support SB 10. I have been in education over 45 years. We need to put God back into our schools!

Ryan Arif
Self, Substitute Teacher
Burleson, TX

This bill is a complete breach of the first amendment's separation of church and state. The ten commandments have absolutely no place in a classroom. The last 8 or so are fine, honestly, but it's the first few that are troublesome. One commandment declares "You shall have no other Gods before me," and another says "You shall not make idols," are not okay to put in all classrooms. Jewish students/parents will have a problem with this - Jewish law says Jews can't put Jewish law (the ten commandments) onto non-Jews. Muslims obviously don't follow the bible, so this 10 commandments business certainly upsets them, and they are the fastest growing world religion. There's also the issue of non-Abrahamic religion, like Hindus or others, which are certainly going to take issue with the commandment declaring that you cannot have other gods before God. This is a serious problem, and this bill cannot pass and come into law. If it does, I have no issue donating some money to the upcoming legal fight, where this bill will ultimately get struck down as unconstitutional.

Ann Zadeh, Hon
Self
Fort Worth, TX

SB 10 is not about religious freedom but about control.
Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.
True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.
Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.
Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others.
Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.

Suzanne MABE

Self retired

fort worth, TX

I disagree with this bill. We have so many different faiths and beliefs and this bill favors one religion over all others. The separation of church and state is one of the founding principles of our country. Religion needs to stay at home or in a religious setting and not our PUBLIC Schools

Rachel Mitchell

Self

Allen, TX

I do NOT support this bill. Religious beliefs should be taught at home. Any form of religious believe should NOT be mandated in our classrooms. As a Christian, I strongly opposed this bill

Dvorah Cristol

Cristol Law, PLLC

FORT WORTH, TX

SB 10 is wrong and backward. SB 10 is not about religious freedom but about control.

Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.

True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.

Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.

Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others.

Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.

Beth Yturri

Self

Garland, TX

This is unconstitutional and tax payers should not foot the bill for unnecessary lawsuits. This is a violation of the separation of church and state - the first amendment establishment clause - and does nothing to actually care for our kids and solve the challenges facing our schools.

Brianna Jones
Self - Teacher
New Braunfels, TX

SB10 is about upholding religious liberty and more about imposing a specific religious viewpoint through state power. When the government mandates religious symbols or texts in public institutions like schools, it can shift from protecting freedom of religion to enforcing religion through government authority. This is not a celebration of faith, but a method of control over public spaces and discourse.

Public schools serve students from many different cultural and religious backgrounds, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, atheism, and more. A state-mandated religious display can make students and families who don't agree with that belief system feel excluded or marginalized. Respecting all beliefs means ensuring schools, particularly public schools, do not promote one religion over others.

Religious freedom, as envisioned in the First Amendment, is a twofold protection: the government cannot establish a religion, and it cannot prohibit the free exercise of religion. SB 10, by promoting one religious tradition (Christianity, in this case), could be interpreted as a government endorsement of that religion. That undermines the neutrality needed for genuine religious liberty, where each individual can choose their path without coercion or preference from the state.

Religious upbringing is a personal and familial responsibility, not the state's. Parents have the right to guide their children's religious or moral development in accordance with their own values and beliefs. Government involvement in religious education—even implicitly through classroom displays—can be seen as overreach, infringing on parental rights and individual liberty.

Teri Pate, Ms
Self
Hurst, TX

We do not live in a Christian nation or state. How about we concentrate on just being a good citizen instead of indoctrinating children to Christian nationalism masked as Christianity meanwhile refusing to feed them or provide as much \$\$\$ as is needed so that they can actually read the Ten Commandments and think critically.

This is all masked as "for the children" but is nothing but a part of some sort of sick and twisted agenda a small bunch of billionaires wants to enforce upon the most marginalized population.

I implore you to stand against this and instead find a way to spend this energy on actually doing Christian acts, not promoting some sadistic lie trying to hide behind the true teachings of actual Jesus.

Ramon Telles Jr
self-Instructional Designer
Austin, TX

I believe that public schools should remain a space that respects the diverse religious beliefs that are present across Texas families. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice, or to choose not to practice any at all, without government interference. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others. Families, not the government, should direct children's religious education.

Andrew H
Self
Austin, TX

This bill should NOT go through. This is the exact opposite of religious freedom and sets a disappoint and dangerous precedent should it pass. Please protect Texas students from various religious and cultural backgrounds and vote no on this bill.

Felicia Miyakawa, Dr.

Self, none

Round Rock, TX

I am absolutely against this. Texas is a diverse state with many religious beliefs. And many of us claim no faith at all. This is a desperate attempt for Christians to assert moral authority. Rather than putting the 10 Commandments on campus, why not protect life by enacting gun control?

Jo Foley

self

Henderson, TX

America was built upon Judeo Christian values and we have strayed too far. Now, we have people rioting in the streets praising killers and gang members. Many of the younger people have no direction and little values, and the values they do have are anti-American. We must remind them what America stands for and there is a great, higher power.

Marilyn Kepner

Self

Fort Worth, TX

This Bill is an infringement on the United States Constitution. It forces specific beliefs where Freedom of Religion is a Constitutional Right . I respect your right to believe in your religion as I expect you would respect mine and every other citizen to practice their preferred religion. NO to SB10

Joanna Klose

self

Austin, TX

Please vote NO for SB 10.

SB 10 is not about religious freedom but about control. Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.

How can we expect our students to follow the 10 commandments when the Texas legislature doesn't... let's not be a state that stand on hypocrisy!

Thomas Downing
Self, retired Methodist Pastor
Austin, TX

My father's Puritan ancestors came to Colonial New Hampshire to be free from Britain's state-controlled religion. They were joined by Baptists in Rhode Island, Catholics in Maryland, Quakers in Pennsylvania, and Jews in South Carolina and Georgia. Since then, people of all faiths, including the latest Afghan or Ukrainian refugees, come expecting to believe and worship as they choose, not as the government dictates.

But here we are. This bill is just the beginning of state-controlled religion. Here's why.

First, if you want to place the ten commandments in public school classrooms, you have to decide which version. There is one in Exodus 20 and another in Deuteronomy 5. Who will choose? The government of course.

Second, the Ten Commandments were written in Hebrew. Which English translation should be used? The King James of 1604 using a form of English unfamiliar to most children? The Living Bible paraphrase of 1971? How about the Catholic New American Standard Bible or the Orthodox Jewish Bible? The government will choose. The British simply picked what was favored by the rich and powerful.

In 1786 Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom that legislators and rulers who set up their own opinions as the only true ones and then try to impose them on others, are the people most responsible for establishing and maintaining false religions all over the world.

If you want to inspire students, try the Golden Rule, found in all ten of the world's great religions. Buddhists and Hindus put it as, "Hurt not others with that which pains yourself." Taoists say, "Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and your neighbors loss as your own loss." Muslims say, "No one is a believer until they love for others what they love for themselves."

But the Jewish version seems most appropriate for today: "What is hurtful to yourself do not do to others. That is the essence of the Law. The rest is commentary. Go and learn it!"

Anne Ware
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am opposed to Senate Bill 10. It undermines our right to religious freedom by mandating one religious doctrine. We are a diverse state with many religions. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.

Annette Martinez
Self - Retired Teacher
Austin, TX

As a retired teacher, I am opposed to SB 10. Teachers are required to post so much information that in many classrooms, there simply is not enough room to post anything else. Posting the 10 Commandments adds nothing to student safety or learning.

Teachers are required to post procedures and maps for fire, storm, and active shooter events. If there is not enough wall space, which of those procedures would you have teachers replace with the 10 Commandments?

Teachers are also expected to post school and classroom rules including disciplinary consequences, student work, word/vocabulary walls, lesson objectives, and a calendar just to name a few items that further student learning. Which of those items would you have teachers replace with the 10 Commandments?

Posting the 10 Commandments would also create problems for teachers. Students will ask questions about the meaning of the Commandments. Are teachers supposed to use their own interpretation of the 10 Commandments to answer the students' questions? How do teachers explain to a 3rd grader what adultery means when teachers are not allowed to speak about anything related to people having sex?

The 10 Commandments adds nothing to student safety or learning. It is a waste of the Public Education Committee's valuable time. Please spend your time on bills that can make a positive difference for Texas students instead of bills like SB 10 that create problems.

The 10 Commandments belong in Sunday school, not public school. Please vote against SB 10.

Jennifer Loehlin
self, retired
Austin, TX

Unconstitutional and it's hard to see what purpose this has except for state endorsement of a particular religion. Classrooms already have rules, which presumably prohibit killing and stealing, and one hopes adultery isn't even an issue.

Chelsey Brimer
self
Austin, TX

This bill is an absolute overreach of the government infringing on our students First amendment rights to freedom of religion. This is also a direct violation of separation of church and state. Our constitution was NOT written with the 10 commandments in mind and the religious doctrine should not be in any classroom in public schools. A plaque on the wall will do nothing to teach the 10 commandments to these students and is just a waste of tax payer dollars and again a violation of our first amendment rights. I would argue that a majority of the republicans in this legislature and across the country do not even follow the 10 commandments with their actions as evidenced by hating their trans neighbors, coveting their neighbors possessions, and killing women and trans people with the recent bills aimed at limiting access to healthcare just to name a few examples. Actions are more powerful than words and I think if this body wants our children to have a strong moral code then the members of this body should start living by a strong moral code. Treat every human with respect and kindness. Allow every human to make their own decisions regarding their own healthcare. Stop being so greedy and doing whatever the corporations give you money to do. That money cannot go to heaven with you, but kindness and respect can. I urge you to VOTE NO on SB 10 as it does nothing to help improve the lives of your constituents therefore it is not doing your job. Please stop wasting our time and tax dollars on nonsense like this bill. People are free to practice the religion or no religion of our choice and the government should not be pushing any specific religion on its citizens.

Susan Kelly
Self; Retired Journalist
Austin, TX

I oppose SB 10, which would force all public schools to display the Ten Commandments in classrooms. This bill is not about religious freedom but about control. Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Please vote NO on SB 10. Thank you.

Farley Ong
Self
San Antonio, TX

Religion is personal not public. (Math 6:6). By putting in one set of Christian's beliefs over all other people beliefs on display is denigrating to those who are forced to believe in something that could, in their belief, cause them great moral harm. Public schools, paid by everyone, were never meant to be churches. If you want your children to learn about your religion, take them to your church! It's that simple. Behind that I don't see one Republican who does anything close to being an upholder of any Christian religion except for love for themselves. It's wit clear and the entire world knows it.

Priscilla Brawner
Self/retired
DALLAS, TX

Vote NO. separation of church and state is very important.

Doreen Geiger
Self (retired Asst Ex. Dir of Non-Profit)
Fort Worth, TX

How do you expect teachers of 1st graders to explain what "adultery" means? This is in the Ten Commandments.

Stephanie Box
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I am against this bill. I don't believe religious documents should be displayed in public schools. Hanging the Ten Commandments won't magically make students better people. This is performative, a waste of time, money, and unnecessary. If you really wanted to improve student morals you would empower teachers & administrators to teach & treat students with dignity. Fund our public schools and stop trying to make them teach like private schools. Do something meaningful instead of wasting time on legislation like this.

Sarah Khan
self
Sugar Land, TX

State and religion should be separate. Otherwise religious freedom will be seriously curtailed. No one should impose their religion on others. Children should be taught to respect all religions and all ethnicities as we are all equally human.

Lauren Chiong
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Hello and good morning: I would like to state my opposition to SB10. Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.
True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.
Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.
Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others.
Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.
Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Lauren Ivy Chiong

Megan Raby
self, educator
Austin, TX

Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others—indeed doing so would choose one particular sect over others, since even the different sects that do incorporate the Ten Commandments interpret, translate, and number them differently. Our founding fathers had the wisdom to keep government out of personal religious business when they wrote the first amendment. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Displaying (somebody's particular version of) "the" ten Commandments is clearly unconstitutional and doesn't represent American, or Texan, values of respect for individual religious freedom.

Danielle Bush
Self
Spring, TX

Keep religion out of our schools & government!

Melody Sullivan
Myself
Cypress, TX

The original colonist came to America seeking a combination of economic opportunities, religious freedom, and political liberty. The GOP of Texas is completely dismissing the religious freedom part. Education is a free and public service to all students of all backgrounds and religious practices. To force students to only view and be indoctrinated with one religious ideology is completely un-American and the antithesis of what this country was founded on. The state of Texas needs to do better for our youth. Stop making religious decisions for all of our students.

Jorene Taylor Swift, Rev Dr
Self-retired pastor
Ft Worth, TX

From an early age I was taught to be thankful that I live in a country where we have freedom of religion-I understood that means freedom of religion for all people in our country. To have freedom of religion we must protect our belief in separation of church and state. The 10 commandments are religious statements -they are seen to be exclusively Christian and should not be displayed in spaces where people of all faiths are present
I pray that you will not vite for a bill that favors one religion over ano

Susan Hall
self, retired teacher
Austin, TX

I am a parent and grandparent of children who have been through and going through the Texas public school system as well as a recently retired teacher. I am voicing my strong opposition to this bill that would require the posting of the 10 Commandments in every classroom. Not only is this blatantly unconstitutional as it violates the separation of church and state, this bill proposes posting the version of the 10 Commandments that is found in Protestant bibles only. What a slap in the face of Catholics. And, the rationale for posting the 10 Commandments...that it will help decrease behavior issues...is completely unfounded, not based on research or fact. Children behave school norms for a variety of reasons; one of them that they feel safe in their school environment. What a great way for any non-Protestant religious student to feel unsafe and unsupported than to post only one religion's version of "commandments" to live by (the very word "commandment" will invoke rebellion in the mildest of middle schoolers - if you've worked with middle schoolers, you know). This mockery of our nation's constitution should not be passed. I oppose this bill and strongly encourage all voting members to oppose it as well.

Melinda Imthurn
Self, teacher
Dallas, TX

Please do not approve a bill that will bring religion into public schools. Schools are for educating children, not indoctrinating them into your preferred religion. We have separation of church and state for a reason. The state should not endorse ANY religion by forcing it on children. It will not make them believers and will not make their schools safer. Freedom of, and from, religion is important. If we let go of that, everyone's beliefs, including yours, are at risk. Oh, and there's this little thing called the Constitution. Did you learn about that, or did your school teach religion instead?

ANA LUISA Salas-Porras
SELF
Austin, TX

I strongly urge the committee to vote NO on SB10. Displaying, teaching, discussing the Ten Commandments is an issue for parents to control & teach at home or at church. I support separation of Church & State. Parents should have control of this issue, not public schools or public school teachers. VOTE NO.

Jennifer Gonzalez
Self/ homemaker
San Antonio, TX

Separation of church and state! I'm all for Christianity but not in schools or government.

Allana McNeill
Self
Hurst, TX

NNNNNOOOOOOOOOOOOO! FREEDOM OF AND FROM RELIGION. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE!

Taylor Trevino
self - former teacher
Austin, TX

As a former public school teacher, and a proud product of Texas's public schools, I strongly urge legislators to OPPOSE this bill. Religion has no place in our public schools. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.

Additionally, Texas taxpayers should not have to pay for the litigation on this bill that will surely ensue if passed, ESPECIALLY considering Louisiana's version of this bill was already struck down. In November 2024, a federal district court ruled that bill violated the First Amendment and went against over 40 years of Supreme Court precedent. This is clearly bad policy, and serves no one except the far Christian right.

Texas needs solutions to our real day-to-day problems, not unconstitutional laws trying to force one religion onto children. VOTE NO on SB 10.

Stephanie Jimenez Schiller
Self
Austin, TX

Good morning, members of the committee.

My name is Stephanie J. Schiller, and I'm here today to oppose this bill mandating the display and teaching of the Ten Commandments in public schools.

I was raised in both the Catholic and non-denominational Christian traditions. I respect the values of the Ten Commandments deeply, and I believe they hold moral weight for many. But this bill represents a clear government overreach. Public schools are not places for the state to endorse any particular religion.

Our Constitution is unambiguous on this point: church and state must remain separate. If the Ten Commandments are taught, would we also include the Five Precepts of Buddhism or the Islamic concept of sin and virtue? Likely not—and that's the problem. We cannot elevate one faith tradition over others in a public institution funded by taxpayers of every belief.

This bill is not just about values—it's about control. And history warns us what happens when governments entangle themselves with religion. During American slavery, white Christian plantation owners brutalized human beings—raping, beating, and murdering them—then went to church, prayed for forgiveness, and returned to do it again. They used scripture as justification. During the Holocaust, the Nazi regime burned people alive and sent millions to their deaths—while invoking Christian identity and morality to justify unspeakable crimes. These horrors were not committed in spiritual vacuums—they were enabled by systems that cloaked violence in the language of religious righteousness.

If we truly want to teach children to love their neighbors, let's start by fully funding our schools, paying educators what they deserve, and modeling inclusive values—not religious coercion.

Our democracy is fragile. We are witnessing a rise in white Christian nationalism that openly challenges the ideals of pluralism and equality. This bill, though it may seem symbolic to some, is not happening in a vacuum—it's part of a broader movement to entangle religious identity with state power. And history shows us that when lawmakers give ground to these forces, they are not just making a policy choice—they are opening the door to consequences far beyond their control.

By voting yes, you are not just passing a bill—you are endorsing a vision of America that threatens the very freedoms our Constitution was designed to protect. And you will be complicit in what may follow.

Please vote no.

Thank you.

Marilee Hayden

Myself

Frisco, TX

Please vote against SB10. My community (and my neighborhood) is very diverse. Texans come from many different faiths. I believe that faith and religion should be kept out of public schools for two reasons. First, since Texans come from many different faiths, it's not right to show preferential treatment to one specific faith. Second, I believe that parents should be responsible for teaching their own children about their own religion. This bill will take that right away from a large group of people. As someone who worships with the Christian faith, I believe that everyone should come to their own faith beliefs by choice, not by force.

Laura Hunt

Self

FORT WORTH, TX

Whose version of the 10 Commandments do you want to display? Choosing any one is favoritism for that particular faith tradition, something the founding fathers opposed. Freedom of religion is enshrined in our constitution. Moreover, families and religious institutions should direct children's religious education, NOT GOVERNMENT MANDATES. I oppose SB 10 in the strongest terms possible.

Rachael Alterman

self - business analyst

Lewisville, TX

Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation

Jessica Clarke

Self - Interior designer

austin, TX

This bill is not about religious freedom. Anytime one religion is favored over another, it invites discrimination, indoctrination, and takes away agency from families.

As part of the first freedom guaranteed by The First Amendment, it is stated "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." That is the implied agreement of separation of church and state to protect religious freedoms, and leave those practices in the hands of families.

It is inappropriate for a government body to guide a child on what to believe.

As a child who was baptized in 3 different churches, brought up Jewish, studied Buddhism, and Hinduism, I can appreciate religious study at higher levels, if there is a diversity of thought to explore concepts over targeted belief.

This bill I see as being dangerous and unconstitutional because it introduces bias that should be left to private citizens.

Beatriz Mojica

Self

Southlake, TX

This is unconstitutional. The first amendment of our constitution prohibits this. The separation of state and church should, and must be honored. Freedom of religion must be respected. Either there is a tremendous lack of knowledge of how we were formed and established, or there is a blatant disregard for our rules of law. Since Im hopefully that members of congress are not trying to go against our constitution, I respectfully advise for the study and understanding of our history and how we came to be.

Mary Eisenberg
self
Lockhart, TX

My name is Mary Eisenberg and I am a resident of Lockhart, Texas.
I am retired public school teacher of 35 yrs and I am now in my 12th year of substitute teaching. I taught American history and English language arts.

I urge the committee to oppose SB 10. This bill is a violation of our religious freedom as enshrined in the U. S. Constitution. It places one religion over another. Texas is state with many faiths and to require the posting of a government-mandated religious document disregards the fundamental rights of every Texas family.

Please oppose this unconstitutional power grab.
Thank you,
Mary Eisenberg

Melissa Senger, Mrs.
Self
Magnolia, TX

I OPPOSE this bill. The principle of separation of church and state is a core tenet of American democracy, based on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This ensures my right and my child's right to freedom FROM religion as well. Religion should not be part of the public school system. There are plenty of religious schools that people can enroll their children in if they believe in a religious education, but given there are over 3,000 world religions and you are choosing to push ONE in public school, I think it's incredibly unfair to anyone who believes differently. Again, I staunchly oppose this bill

Kristin Turner
Self- registered nurse
Elgin, TX

Religion is a choice in this country. It is a freedom we all share. Our education system should remain separate from that choice. Religion does not need to be taught in our public schools. Religion is not the job of our government to force upon us. This is a free nation. Let it be just that. We the people do not want to be told what or who we should worship.

Bill King
Self - retired judge
Austin, TX

Good morning, Representatives. I urge you to vote no on SB10. A few comments.
First, the version of the 10 Commandments that would be posted is the King James Version. Clearly not the original version given to Moses. Why don't you require that the posting be in Hebrew?
Second, it may be news to some of you, but there are tens of thousands of Texans who do not follow an Abrahamic religion. Why don't you respect your fellow Hindus, Buddhists, agnostics, and atheists?
Third, I fear that this is only the first step to requiring the teachings of one branch of religion in the schools. I recall that the Founders had thoughts on this.
Finally, you know this is just for show. If you want to convert people to your version of Christianity, I suggest following the teachings of Jesus.

Stephanie Cantrell, Retired Teacher
Self
Arlington, TX

This is completely against the Separation of church and state!!!! These should not be displayed at a school at all. It is not related to school accreditation nor subject matter. Our schools are not religion based and should not be. Do not vote for this bill. It is offensive.

Tanya Lavelle
Self
Cedar Park, TX

My name is Josee Holland and I am a mother of 2 boys, one of whom is about to finish kindergarten in a public school in Cedar Park, TX. I am very much against SB 10 for a myriad of reasons. First, it once again introduces religion into public schools, something explicitly prohibited by our US Constitution. If I want my kids to get a religious education, I'll send them to a religious private school, something that is supposed to be easy and affordable moving forward.

Second, my family identifies as a religious minority: it is my right as a parent to teach my children whatever religion I choose without interference from the state. Religion is taught by parents, religious leaders and others in our religious community, and public schools have no role in that. Our already undervalued teachers are not prepared to handle the religious dogma that will result from displaying the 10 commandments in classrooms, nor should they be. Their job is to teach our children, not figure out how to explain adultery to a 5 year old.

Additionally, this bill will have the impact of alienating children of varying faiths at school. As a child, I was bullied in my Texas public school for not being a Christian. This was decades ago when things like prayer and religious texts were not allowed in school. I can only imagine the alienation that my boys will feel if the 10 Commandments were to be displayed in their classrooms. No policy should EVER prioritize some children over others, or lead them to question their value.

This bill explicitly intends to push Christianity upon every child in a Texas public school. It is not a bill about religious freedom. Instead, it is a bill about religious control that disrespects and demeans a huge number of Texas families for not practicing a specific faith, or any faith at all. It wrests our parental rights to raise our children how we choose.

All Texas children need to be celebrated for who they are and who they want to become. SB 10 shows our kids that some are better than others because of their religion, and we should never ascribe to policies that will do that.

Cheryl Cantu-Mireles
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a retired public schoolteacher, I would like to comment regarding SB 10 relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in Public School Classrooms. The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution clearly requires states to guarantee prohibition against the establishment of religion. This means that TEXAS, like the federal government, can "make no law respecting an establishment of religion." As a Christian, I believe in living the life as a disciple of Jesus Christ and following the Ten Commandments; however, I also believe that it is my duty to respect the religious beliefs of my fellow man whatever those might be. So although I may be called to share his word with others, I shall do it through my actions (how I treat or others) and I will NOT dictate to others how they should believe. Our forefathers came to America to practice religious freedom. To require Texas classrooms to display the Ten Commandments is to dictate a specific religious doctrine goes against the religious freedom of our Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and other students.

What other purpose would this Bill serve other than to infringe on the religious beliefs of others? A true Christian walks the walk, talks the talk, and practices their faith ... there is NO NEED to post or politicize their faith.
"And they'll know we are Christians by our LOVE, by our LOVE ..."

Sincerely,
Cheryl Cantu-Mireles

Dan Stiver
Self, teacher
Fort Worth, TX

I am a lifelong Baptist, who were leaders in bringing about separation of church and state in the Bill of Rights, so I have along history of being aware of the issue of how wrongheaded and counterproductive it is to require by force religion upon people. Sociologists now see that separation of church and state has allowed religion, and Christianity in particular, to flourish in unprecedented ways in the United States (gradually growing from the beginning) as compared to Europe with established churches where Christianity has almost died out. Religion does well when it is not coerced. There have been times when the 10 Commandments have been posted, but it has had no discernible effect. In fact, the sad spectacle of politicians, many of whom support efforts like this, is all around who ignore the commandment not to be bear false witness. One of Jesus' main criticisms was hypocrisy, and it is one of the factors driving people away from religion. People who want to post these things and do not even follow them drives people away. Again, religion has flourished in a context of separation of church and state and withered with efforts like these. Let us trust the wisdom of the founding fathers and the constitution, which is good for the state and religion.

Brianna Madruga
self
Austin, TX

I am deeply concerned about this bill, as it is in direct violation to the separation of church and state, one of the foundations of our nation. Students of all walks of life and religious (or non religious) backgrounds should be welcomed at school, without the school showing any preference for a particular religion. Clearly, placing the Ten Commandments in the classroom clearly favors one religious tradition over others. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Our students deserve better.

Linda Cobb
Self/ Retired
Dallas, TX

Opposed to posting the Ten Commandments in public schools because of so many different faiths in our state.

Taylor Cavin
Self- Teacher
Austin, TX

As a public school teacher, I oppose this bill. It is a grievous misrepresentation of the purpose of public education. If enacted, I will not post these in my classroom, because it is a slap in the face to my non-religious students. Please focus on the issues our schools are actually facing, like underfunding, overcrowding, budget freezes, protecting our unhoused students and families. I strongly urge you to stand with Texas educators and vote no for this bill.

Mary Ellen Scribner, Ms
Self - Retired educator (PreK-12 Librarian), (7-12 English and social studies teacher)
Austin, TX

SB 10 is an anomaly and should not exist. That it's unconstitutional should have put the brakes on the misguided thought it belongs on the wall of a public classroom in the United States of America. It violates the civil rights and religious liberties of all but a small segment of Christians. It is inappropriate curriculum material and has no educational value. Teachers are unprepared to deal with the questions it might raise. It is offensive to all except the few who believe their way is the only way--even more enlightened Christian sects. Remove the offensive SB10 bill from consideration. Please.

Makayla Bryson
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Growing up in a fairly religious area while having no religion of my own I was completely unaware that I was in the minority. This is because religion simply never came up in my public school. I had no idea that myself and my peers were any different. I had no idea what religion my peers or teachers followed. This is exactly how it should be. I wish for all children to live in the same ignorance as I did. Highlighting religion in the classrooms will absolutely lead to social isolation of children who do not follow the same religion.

Just as we are not a nation of one religion, we were not founded to promote one specific religion over another. I firmly believe that the state should not take any action to promote or give one religion an unfair advantage.

This law unfairly supports Protestant faiths by using the Protestant version of the Ten Commandments. Though Protestantism is the largest religion in Texas, Catholicism is not far behind with it being the second largest form of religious belief in our state. This law will undoubtedly confuse other Christian children about their own faith.

The Ten Commandments are not laws. Only murder and theft have any sort of codification, and even then, not all murders or thefts are treated equally. Killing in self defense or killing in war is not treated the same as killing your neighbor in cold blood. A child stealing a cookie from their own kitchen is not the same as robbing a bank. According to the Ten Commandments though these actions are all equal.

Marina Yergin, Rabbi
Temple Beth-El
San Antonio, TX

Hello, I am Rabbi Marina Yergin from San Antonio. I am opposed to Senate Bill 10 and I ask the committee to vote against it.

As a rabbi, I know that the 10 Commandments are a resonant religious symbol. Which is exactly why they have no place in a public school classrooms.

There are those who would argue that the 10 Commandments are universal. This is simply not true. There are many faiths where the 10 Commandments (and the Hebrew Bible more generally) do not play an important role. Some people feign towards this idea of universality by saying that the 10 Commandments are a "Judeo-Christian" symbol. It is true that Jews and Christians both read the Hebrew Bible. But we cannot even agree about the numbering of the commandments, let alone their meaning. Jews, for instance, count "honor your father and mother" as the 5th commandment, while in many Christian versions, this is the 4th commandment. I imagine that state officials have no intention of putting a version of the 10 Commandments in classrooms that features the Jewish numbering (or a version in the original Hebrew, for that matter). We all know that the version that would be put in classrooms according to this law is far from universal. It is specifically and exclusively Christian.

There are others who argue that the 10 commandments had a profound influence on the development of America. This is also false. There is no compelling evidence that the 10 Commandments had a specific influence on the Founding Fathers. Some were men of faith, others were not. But neither the Declaration of Independence nor the Constitution quotes from the Bible. God is mentioned in these texts only sparingly. If the Founding Fathers were such big fans of the 10 Commandments, they failed to indicate that in the founding documents of our country. But even if it were true that they were inspired by the Bible to write these enduring documents, that would be an insufficiently compelling reason to put them in every classroom. They were also deeply inspired by John Locke, but I do not hear anyone calling for copies of his treatises on government to be placed in every classroom in the state.

I am a parent who is intent on making sure that my children's education will be free from any religious indoctrination. They come to our synagogue's religious school to learn about our faith, but they go to public school 5 days a week to learn math, science, and reading. I shudder to think how it would feel for my children, or any other non-Christian students, to look up every day and see a religious symbol being forced upon them. Let us keep public schools safe for students of all faiths and none by ensuring that the schools remain secular and free from religious iconography. Please leave the faith education to clergy like me and let public school teachers do what they do best. Please vote against this bill.

Thank you,
Rabbi Yergin

Traci Dunlap
Self, teacher
Austin, TX

My name is Traci Dunlap, and I'm a proud public school educator with 37 years in the classroom. I am in opposition to SB 10.

This bill is not about religious freedom, but about control. Public schools educate students from diverse backgrounds and should respect diverse religious beliefs. Students deserve inclusive learning environments!

Posting the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors Christianity over all other religious traditions, True religious freedom means that we respect all faiths and the right for individuals and families to practice the religion of their choice, or no religion at all, without government interference.

Students' families, not the State of Texas and government mandates, should be responsible for children's religious education and upbringing.

Ann Goar
Arapaho UMC
Richardson, TX

Absolutely not. We are a nation of various faith traditions. While the Ten Commandments are indeed worthy aspirations, how in the world do you square posting them with removing signs to care for each other, kindness matters, etc? It makes no sense. Christians do not own public spaces, therefore Christian doctrines/beliefs do not belong posted in public schools or other public spaces. Vote NO

Robin Rosenstock, Dr
Self
Austin, TX

NO, NO, NO. This will go to court unless you also plan to allow every religion to post their own commandments. In Judaism there are 613.

Andrea LaGrone
self
Austin, TX

This bill flies in the face of freedom of religion. All of us is entitled to own personal faith beliefs and those beliefs should be respected. Pushing 1 branch of religion as the model denigrates teachings of other religions. The 10 commandments is not a part of all Texans' beliefs or histories. If these personal beliefs are held by individuals they can and should be taught those beliefs at home. NOT IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!! I want parental choice here. I do not want our children of many faith backgrounds to have this force upon them in their classrooms. Sure, religious influence in history is important, but mandating the display of this specific passage of a specific religious text is gov't overreach that promotes religious beliefs many students don't share and it very clearly undermines parental rights. I believe public schools can and should teach universal values without endorsing specific religious traditions. Many faiths teach empathy, kindness, compassion, and respect—and forcing one religion's text on all students and teachers contradicts those principles. On top of all of this, SB 10 is so clearly unconstitutional it will immediately be subject to challenges wasting millions of precious taxpayer dollars. This bill simply must be rejected. Thank you.

Join us in calling on legislators to focus on policies that unite and support all Texas students and create inclusive environments where they feel welcomed, not implement mandates that divide our communities. Public schools should be focused on providing students with skills for academic success, not promoting specific religious beliefs

Shannon Izquierdo
Self
El Paso, TX

I oppose the Ten Commandments in schools. There is no place for it in a public school classroom. Please keep a separation of church and state. This is a horrible idea. Thank you.

Sarah Gustafson
Self
Round Rock, TX

I oppose the displaying of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

Doris Adams, Dr.
Self/retired educational consultant
AUSTIN, TX

Historically, the best way to protect religious liberty was to keep the government far away from religion. That's why the separation of church and state, enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, has been an unimpeachable touchstone.

In this legislative session, SB 10 would mandate the Ten Commandments be displayed in every public-school classroom. This bill disrespects our religiously diverse students and families and undermines the First Amendment. It imposes a singular brand of Christianity above all other religions.

Please vote against Senate Bill 10!!

Best,

Doris Adams

Elizabeth Gray
Self
Austin, TX

Against. This bill violates the separation of church and state

Finch Miller
self/student
Austin, TX

I am against SB 10. This bill requiring all classrooms have the Ten Commandments violates the separation of church and state. It insinuates that Christianity is more important than other religions. Please vote against this bill.

Victoria Dimock
Self
Round Rock, TX

This bill is clearly about control over religious freedom by the state. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others. Legislation supporting parents rights to choose the schools they send their children to includes their right to direct their child's religious beliefs and practices. Vote NO on this bill. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.f

Susan Kelly
Self; Retired Journalist
Austin, TX

I oppose SB 10 that would require posting the Ten Commandments in all public school classrooms. Religious choice is a personal and family matter and the Christian faith should not be forced upon students who are of a different faith. Please vote NO on SB 10

Cynthia Thomson
Self
Plano, TX

Everyone should be free to choose their own spiritual path, and when the government promotes one religion's rules, like the Ten Commandments, it pushes others' aside and crosses the line between church and state.

Kristin Shelton
self
Austin, TX

Vote no on SB 10.
This bill controls what religious information is posted in public school classrooms and does not support religious freedom.

Matt Smith
Self. Conflict mediator.
Austin, TX

Because our public schools serve Texans of all faiths and no faith, they must be equally welcoming to all students. Elevating any faith tradition just conveys a sense of superiority and hostility towards every other belief system. Often students' beliefs depend on their family and heritage. Students should not encounter any superiority or hostility against their deeply held beliefs or their family and heritage. And for students whose parents belong to different faith traditions, a school should not be siding with some traditions against others.

Katherine Fletcher
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill and urge you to do so also. Separation of church and state and the freedom for each of us to practice our religion is a key national AND state value. Texans come from many faith traditions. Mandating that every classroom prominently display the Ten Commandments is UnTexan. Keep Texas strong, beautiful, and free.

Michelle Chappell
Self/stay at home parent
Dallas, TX

Hello. My name is Michelle and my family and I are residents of Dallas, TX. I am a mother of one child at DISD and my second child will attend public school in 2026. We are a Christian home. My husband and I met at our church and we were married in the church we met. I am against this bill passing. Requiring schools to display any religious text is infringing on religious rights of students and teachers. Unless we are displaying texts from all religions as an educational tool it is inappropriate and a huge waste of our hard earned money. We have many opportunities in Texas for residents to practice their religion and join a new religion if they wish. I urge you to oppose this bill and save the money for something that will actually benefit our kids and our schools. Thank you for hearing my comments.

Tina Malone
Self - educator
Dallas, TX

I know that Texas firmly supports individual freedoms and the freedom of religion. Selecting the religious rules from any religion - Islam, Judaism, Christianity- to post in a classroom violates the separation of church and state and doesn't respect each individual's rights to their own religious thoughts.

Antoinette Wegner
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to encourage you to oppose Senate Bill 10, as the Ten Commandments do NOT belong in a public school that should be supporting freedom of thought and independent thinking, and be welcoming of students of different religious beliefs. This bill would be harmful to children, whether they believe the Ten Commandments or not.

Brian Canny
sale
Austin, TX

Displaying the 10 Commandments in public schools is patently un-American and un-Texan, as it is a big-government overreach, a violation of the First Amendment, and a clear breach in the separation of church and state. I oppose this bill in the strongest possible terms. It would be a violation of citizen sovereignty and an attempt by the Texas legislature to sully belief and religion by putting the state in the position of dictating the personal beliefs of Texans.

Stephanie Schindler
Sun City Democrats
Round Rock, TX

Please vote NO on SB10. The constitution has separation of church & state in it for a reason. This is a nonsense bill that doesn't help anyone.

Barbara Terry
self, retired attorney
Austin, TX

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. Our country was founded on separation of Church and State. This bill belittles all other religions that are supposedly okay to practice in this State by giving one religion priority. The US Supreme Court has already decided this issue in another state and found it to be UNCONSTITUTIONAL. I don't want my tax dollars used in defending this bill in federal lawsuits for the next several years. And if you voted for parental choice aka the school voucher bill and also support this bill, then you are a hypocrite. You can't have it both ways. VOTE NO on SB10

Sandy Carter-Wattles
Retired
Austin, TX

Be consistent with your vote and vote no on HB10, Vote NO

Christina Cordes
self
Cedar Park, TX

Please oppose SB 10. We are not all Judeo-Christians, nor are we required to be. The 10 commandments may pretty well express universal values, but put in the context of Biblical text is an affront to those of us who embrace freedom of religion. These values can be encouraged without the context of Judeo-Christianity.

Jim Crosby
Self/Retired Schoolteacher and Lay Chaplain
Manor, TX

Christian faith is central to my identity. I love the Ten Commandments, and the rest of the Bible. It is BECAUSE of my faith that I oppose SB 10. The bill is a threat to freedom of religion and church-state separation. Please vote against it.

Georgia Canfield
Self
Lexington, TX

The US Constitution guarantees us freedom from religion. I have nothing against the 10 Commandments but they do not belong in our public schools. There are many different religions in Texas. If the Christian commandments can be on display in public schools, all religions should be able to display their beliefs.

Carla Brady
Self. Retired
Cedar Park, TX

SB 10/HB 2696
Dear Chairman Buckley and members of the Committee.
I fear that passing SB 10 would result in frequent disruptions in the classroom and school meetings. I fear it would result in divisiveness, coercion, prejudice, scorn, and many other problems leading to lawsuits and expense for our schools.
For what purpose? To start battles over whether the United States is an Abrahamic nation?
Our National and Texas constitutions effectively direct that we should separate church and state.
VOTE NO to posting religious tracts on public classrooms.
Vote "NO" to SB 10.

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VOTE NO to posting religious tracts in public classrooms.
Vote "NO" to SB 10.

Steven Deline
self
Austin, TX

Why are clearly unconstitutional bills on the docket? The only reason this makes sense is if it was chosen to go on the docket knowing it would get tossed by the Supreme Court as something for the Republican base to rally around now that they can't be enraged about zygotes. Christian Nationalism is un-American & antithetical to the teachings of Christ. Idolatry of the great book is still idolatry. Ironically, this bill is advocating for placing a "graven image" into public schools.

Wasting tax dollars because you couldn't be asked to read ?????? ?????????? ?? ??????????
or ?????????????? ?????????? ?? ?????????????? ?????????? ?????????????????? ?????????? ??? ?????????????????? is just bad legislating. Unless you count paying for the lawyers, judges, & court operation costs as job creation I guess.

Stop being weird.

Neita Huffman, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is not about religious freedom but about control.

Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.

True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.

Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.

Oluwatomilade Fatunde

Self

Dallas, TX

Hello- I am writing in opposition to this bill. I urge you not to move forward with it because placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others. This does not honor the religious diversity of Texans, the right of all religious communities to conduct their own religious education. Our public schools should focus on civic education, which can supplement to private moral foundation. Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of their choice without government interference.

Jennifer Colon, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

I want to add a comment that I am opposed to Senate bill 10 to require public schools to display the 10 Commandments I believe this goes against the first amendment and the practice of separation between Church and State if a state institution like a public school where to post the 10 Commandments, which is solely for the Jewish or Christian religions Then in order for it to be fair, and not the government endorsing a particular religion, then tenants from other faiths must be posted as well tenants from the Muslim faith tenants from the Hindu faith tenets from the Buddhist faith the Unitarian Universalist, seven principles the tenants from Wicca the tenants from Satanism you get the idea And if this bill is passed, I will fight for my right to display non-Christian religious texts in my public school office

Laura Brownlee

self - parent

Richardson, TX

The 10 commandments do not belong in a classroom except as part of a comparative religion class. Making schools post them in schools is a blatant violation of the separation of church and state. And to make it a certain version of them is even more outrageous.

Libby Larson

Self

Garland, TX

Keep religion out of public schools.

Melody Tremallo
Self
San Marcos, TX

This bill is shameful in many ways. First, it is expressly unconstitutional and defies the word and spirit of the First Amendment, whose first sentence begins with, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion..." This bill implicitly endorses the establishment of Christianity as a religion by ignoring every other religion; there are no teachings of the Islamic, Hindi, Buddhist, Jewish, Hellenistic, Nordic, or pagan faiths.

Further, one of the authors, Senator Middleton, stated that, "We are a nation built on 'In God We Trust'." This phrase, commonly seen on the U.S. dollar, was added to our currency in 1955, 179 years after the establishment of the nation. The first currency minted in the U.S. bore the phrase, "Mind Your Business," for which the authors, sponsors, and supporters of this bill would be better off doing than pushing for their religion in all aspects of life. "E Pluribus Unum" is one of the oldest phrases in the American consciousness; it translates to "Out of Many, One," and embodies the expression of coming together in unity. This is yet another bill written to divide the people of Texas into in-groups and out-groups, to divide the people of Texas from their neighbors by highlighting differences rather than our similarities.

I would like to circle back to the constitutionality of this bill. In 1978, Kentucky introduced a bill that would require the Ten Commandments to be displayed in public schools. In the Kentucky Supreme Court, it was found that the first four commandments were "religious injunctions," and therefore could not be given preference under the law. It progressed to the Supreme Court, where it was found to have no secular legislative purpose; that means it must not advance or prohibit religion, and must not foster entanglement between the government and religion. Therefore, it was found unconstitutional under the Establishment Clause.

I demand the members of the committee to kill this bill and focus on things that actually matter to Texans across the board, such as the rising cost of basic goods, the unavailability of affordable property, stagnant wages, and decreasing access and affordability of quality medical care. In short, do your damn jobs and quit pushing petty distractions.

Jana Long, Director
Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee
Dallas, TX

I am Jana Long, the Director of Concerned Women for America of Texas and I am testifying on behalf of CWA Legislative Action Committee in support of SB 10. The Ten Commandments are thousands of years old and have been a moral compass for millions of people during that time. They have served as a moral foundation and have influenced legal systems and ethical standards throughout history. They are an integral part of our American heritage, and their principles provide civil guidance for our country and will for many years in the future. The Ten Commandments are basic behavioral principles. All school children can benefit from learning and living these principles, and no child will be harmed knowing these basic rules of civility. I ask that you support SB 10.

Brian Lavelle
Self, parent
Cedar Park, TX

Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education, so please stop wasting what little funding there is for public education on posting signage that already pervades nearly every facet of our daily lives

LUCY IVES

self, Assistant Director in Higher Education Facilities

Fort Worth, TX

Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.

True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.

Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.

Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others.

Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.

The constitution specifically spells out separation of church and state, and requiring 10 Commandments in public school settings is a direct violation of this. I have two small children in public school currently, and I want their classroom to focus on an inclusive and thorough education, not religious indoctrination.

Hayden Presley

Self/Student

Austin, TX

My name is Hayden Presley and I oppose SB 10. As a current student and future educator, I know it's of utmost importance to teach our school kids fundamental beliefs of kindness and ethics, however it should not be done by implementing the bible in our classrooms. From the day this country was founded, it was on the basis of separation of church and state. If parents want their children to see the ten commandments in their classrooms and their kids to be taught these lessons from the bible, they should send their kids to church or to a religious institution, not a public school. There are multiple ways to teach the same lessons that our lawmakers believe will come from this not from the bible. Our focus should be on the success of these kids, not shoving others religious beliefs down their throats.

Hannah Jacoby

Self

Midland, TX

This is ridiculous. Stop the far right insanity. I am Christian and speak to my savior every night but there is separation of Church and state! Vote no to this.

Linda Estrada

Self

Donna, TX

Good afternoon, my name is Linda Estrada, and I have served as an educator in Texas for over 33 years. I'm here today to respectfully express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 10, which proposes the mandatory posting of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

Our public schools are not Sunday School. While I value the moral teachings of the Ten Commandments, I firmly believe that religious education belongs first and foremost in the home—the domestic church—and within the context of a family's chosen place of worship. Parents, not public schools, should lead the way in shaping their children's faith and spiritual formation.

Public education must remain a welcoming space for all students, regardless of religious background. Mandating religious texts in classrooms not only violates the principle of church and state separation, but it also risks excluding or marginalizing students and families who follow different faith traditions—or none at all.

If our goal is to strengthen education and support the well-being of children, we must focus on real classroom needs. We must raise teacher salaries, increase per-pupil funding, reduce overcrowding, and ensure that every student in Texas receives a high-quality education—regardless of zip code or belief system.

Let's invest in what truly matters for our schools, educators, and children—not political distractions. Thank you.

Mara Bim

Self, candidate for ordination at Royal Lane Baptist Church

Plano, TX

My name is Mara Richards Bim. I am the mother of a Plano ISD second grader and a candidate for ordination at Royal Lane Baptist Church in Dallas.

Going back to the first Baptist community in this country founded by Roger Williams in Rhode Island in 1636, Baptists have proudly stood as separatists ensuring religious liberty for all. Baptists are the reason we have the Separation of Church and State enshrined in our Constitution. And as I proud Baptist, I'd like to read from the Supreme Court decision the last time a bunch of knuckleheaded legislatures tried to put the 10 Commandments in public school classrooms.

This is from *Stone v. Graham* decided in 1980 when I was a kindergartner:

The pre-eminent purpose for posting the Ten Commandments on schoolroom walls is plainly religious in nature. The Ten Commandments are undeniably a sacred text in the Jewish and Christian faiths,³ and no legislative recitation of a supposed secular purpose can blind us to that fact. The Commandments do not confine themselves to arguably secular matters, such as honoring one's parents, killing or murder, adultery, stealing, false witness, and covetousness. See Exodus 20: 12-17; Deuteronomy 5: 16-21. Rather, the first part of the Commandments concerns the religious duties of believers: worshipping the Lord God alone, avoiding idolatry, not using the Lord's name in vain, and observing the Sabbath Day. See Exodus 20: 1-11; Deuteronomy 5: 6-15. This is not a case in which the Ten Commandments are integrated into the school curriculum, where the Bible may constitutionally be used in an appropriate study of history, civilization, ethics, comparative religion, or the like. Posting of religious texts on the wall serves no such educational function. If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the schoolchildren to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the Commandments. However desirable this might be as a matter of private devotion, it is not a permissible state objective under the Establishment Clause.

The Texas Legislature seems to be under the delusion that more recent Supreme Court rulings—especially *Kennedy v. Bremerton*—opens the door to the state inserting religion into the public school spaces. However, I'd like to remind this committee that, as the majority opinion noted in *Kennedy*:

The contested exercise before us does not involve leading prayers with the team or before any other captive audience. There is no more captive audience than public school students. Requiring students as young as kindergarten to stare at the State's version of the 10 Commandments each and every day is forced religious indoctrination to the extreme that even the *Kennedy* decision does not allow.

This will be challenged in the courts and this very proud Baptist will be first in line to sue the state if it passes. Thank you.

Terra Anders, Ms.

Self

Taylor, TX

My name is Terra Anders. I am a mother of 3 and a grandmother of 4. I am representing myself and I'm opposed to SB 10 relating to the display of the 10 Commandments in public school classrooms. I am personally a follower of Jesus Christ, some in my family are Christian some atheist one is agnostic and one follows Buddhism. Each of us made our religious choices for ourselves when we were old enough to understand the importance of such a life choice. I would guess that many of you also attended public school and we're not forced to review religious scriptures from a religion you did not embrace. All my children attended public schools. My two daughters are currently educators in Kay through grade 12. They focus on educating their students in language, math, science history, social studies and more. Teachers then and now incorporate the important lessons of kindness, honesty, empathy, tolerance, and respect for others into their lessons in classroom activities on a daily basis. These are the basic rules of self-control and being in a community. There is no reason to add a religious element to the basic teachings of good character. There is, however, I need for parents to engage, actively in their children's education and work with teachers and administrators when poor behavior is cited. Regarding the version of the 10 Commandments required in this bill, the language and content is inappropriate for elementary and middle school students. Even believers of different denominations of Christianity disagree on how to interpret some of the commandments. If adult trained religious leaders are in conflict with the interpretations, how can we expect teachers untrained in the Christian doctrine to answer questions that arise from a 7-year-old about this complex language to which they are being exposed? "Why are some Sabbath days on Sunday, and mine is on Saturday?" "What does it mean to covet a wife?" "What is adultery? Is that the same as idolatry?" "What is a grave an image?" "Is killing the same as murder?" "My daddy says God doesn't exist! But that poster tells me that God is my God. What does that mean?" Answers that are in direct conflict with the beliefs of the child's family and culture or religion can create confusion, frustration, and even anger directed to the teacher. This is simply an unfair expectation to put on any public school teacher. A poster on the wall relaying rules from a God they may not embrace will do nothing to help classrooms become safe from gun violence, or improve their math or readiness scores, and has no power to overcome addiction to cell phones or lack of motivation about their future. These are the things teachers and public school administrators should be prioritizing and finding innovative ways to address in our classrooms today. Placing one religion over all others is not an appropriate solution. SB10 is a direct attack on separation of church and state and a threat to religious freedom in Texas. VOTE NO SB10!

Kelsey Black

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I oppose this bill. This bill goes against everything I believe in as a Christian. This is not what Jesus wanted. This is what Jesus preached against.

Katelyn Zimmer

Self - Teacher

Odessa, TX

I am a public school teacher and I oppose SB10. Public schools exist to serve all students of diverse backgrounds. I have taught students of various religious beliefs. I've taught students who were Christian, Jewish, Jehovah's Witnesses, Buddhist, Atheist, and Muslim. All of my students deserve the right to follow their personal religious practices as this is protected by their 1st amendment rights. This very bill directly goes against the 1st amendment of the US constitution. Requiring public schools to post the 10 commandments is a big slap in the face to our non-Christian students. I believe if a child's parents want their student to learn about the 10 commandments, then it is the parents responsibility to teach that to their child. Public schools are a place of learning, not indoctrinating children to a faith.

Jodi Eckberg
Self
Lakeway, TX

As a long time resident of Texas, I strongly urge lawmakers to vote NO on SB 10. This bill is truly not about religious freedom but instead governmental control.

It's astonishing to have to remind everyone that public schools are not Sunday schools. Parents and faith leaders should guide religious education, not the government. Freedom of religion is one of the foundational principles of our nation and this dangerous bill is a clear violation of the constitution, religious freedom and parental rights, and represents a giant government overreach.

It's not hard to see that the people of Texas represent many different faiths than just Christianity. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others.

Ultimately, families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.

Oren Hayon, Rabbi
Self - congregational rabbi
Houston, TX

I am a congregational rabbi and I work full-time to inculcate the values of the Bible and our faith into the members of my faith community. I am also a proud American who cherishes the principles of liberty and freedom that our nation is built upon. Because of these two sets of core principles, I am opposed to Senate Bill 10 and I ask the committee to vote against it.

The Ten Commandments are a potent symbol in the upbuilding of children's character, but they are also a religious symbol and for that reason, they have no place in a public school classrooms.

Moreover, though the values of the Commandments are universal, their form is NOT universal. Jews and Christians all revere these teachings, but there are different versions of the Ten Commandments in the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish bibles. Their text and numbering systems are all different, and therefore for our Legislature to choose one sect's version of the Ten Commandments will mean that the state will be privileging one specific faith over others. This is antithetical to the principles of our Constitution and our liberty.

My wife and I send our children to a faith-based school. We made the deliberate choice to do so, and to dedicate our family's resources to make it possible, because we believe in the religious values and principles that are taught there. We also made this choice because these religious principles are not – and must not be – promoted in Texas's public schools.

I ask for your help in keeping our public schools safe and welcoming for students of all faiths. The best way for us to do this is to uphold our Constitution and sure that public classrooms remain free from religious symbols – even those which are cherished and revered by most Texans. I hope you will consider these comments and vote against this bill. Thank you.

Wendy Valdes
Self/teacher
El Paso, TX

This is blatantly unconstitutional. The Ten Commandments belong in Sunday school. I am a public school teacher. I run out of paper every single month. I don't have enough supplies to properly teach my students. Public schools are severely underfunded. It is insulting that the state wants to spend money and time on this. This is why so many educators are leaving the field. You have these performative laws that do nothing to help teachers and students.

Reed Bilz, Ms
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am the mother of six children who graduated from Texas public schools. I am writing to ask you to protect the religious freedom of Texas students and oppose House Bill 10.

Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious or non religious beliefs. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths or no faith and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.

I ask you to vote down SB 10.

Hayden Paul, Rev.
Self
Austin, TX

As a person of deep Christian faith, I treasure the ways that faith shapes lives, families, and communities for the better. But I stand here today opposed to Senate Bill 10 because I believe it is not a faithful expression of religious freedom - it's a distortion of it! While the Ten Commandments are sacred to many, myself included, public school is not Sunday school, and it should not be treated as such. Religious education is a sacred responsibility of families and faith communities - not the government. Faith, by its very nature, must be freely chosen, and not imposed by the state. True religious freedom means creating space for all Texans, those of faith and those of no faith at all, to live according to the convictions of their hearts without government interference. Texans cherish religious freedom and it's one of our oldest and most sacred shared values. But true religious freedom means that families, not politicians, have the right to guide their children's religious education. Mandating the Ten Commandments in every classroom undermines religious freedom, because it sends a harmful message to students to who come from different or no religious background, that they are less valued in their own schools. Of course, we all want our children to grow up with strong moral foundations! But moral guidance comes from many sources across different faiths, philosophies, and family traditions. We don't need government-mandated religious texts to teach kindness, compassion, and integrity. Our children need classrooms that prepare them for college and careers, not political battlegrounds about religion. Our legislators must remember that the public school system exists to prepare students for success - for college, for career, and for life. Posting religious texts on the walls does nothing to strengthen literacy. It does nothing to improve math scores. It does nothing to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities that await them in the world beyond school walls. In fact, mandates like these distract from the real work our teachers and students are called to do each day.

Our classrooms should be places where every student feels welcomed, respected, and encouraged to achieve their full God-given potential. Not places where the government mandates a singular faith tradition or world view. If we truly care about the moral and spiritual formation of our children - and I believe we should - then we must entrust that sacred task to families and faith communities, not political mandates and politicians. When the government picks one religion's sacred text to display, it crosses a line—and it tells families that the government knows better than they do when it comes to religiously educating their children. I urge our lawmakers to reject SB 10, not because we reject faith, but because we honor it too much to let it be co-opted by political agendas. Keep public schools focused on education, not religious mandates.

Harold Parkey
self
FORT WORTH, TX

As a Vietnam Veteran (US Army 69-71) I am against placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms. I believe it favors one religious tradition over all others. If any specifically Christian message were to be placed in the classroom it should be the Beatitudes. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education. SB 10 is not about religious freedom but about control. Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.

Sallie Plummer, Dr
Self
Richardson, TX

Placing the Ten Commandments in a classroom does enable a better learning process. You need only look around a schoolyard to see the cultural & religious diversity. Our Constitution very plainly calls for separation of Church & State. School curriculum is & should be constructed for academic advancement not intermediation by the religious right. Use the funding for feeding hungry children.

Katherine Fletcher
Self (Manager) and Texas Impact
Houston, TX

A broad coalition of faith groups strongly oppose this bill. We are a strong, resilient, and multi-religious state and promoting one religion in our Texas classrooms is unconstitutional at the state and federal level as well as unfaithful and unwelcome by Texans. Not to mention the absurdity of needing to explain adultery to Kindergartners and the massive distraction from the important goals of developing 21st century skills and understanding in our newly forming Texans. Let churches, synagogues, mosques, and other places of worship do the work of faith building, and our teachers do the work of skills building.

Christine Llewellyn
Socorro ISD
El Paso, TX

I have many students of various religions and feel this would go against their first amendment rights.

Theresa Hornung
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I believe in freedom from religion in educational environments. This should be a parents right to teach this subject as they see fit not schools.

Gordon Appleman
self attorney
fort worth, TX

Another of KIng's bad ideas. Religious materials belong in home and church, not public schools. You rant against indoctrination. What do you think this is? It extends the promotion of the primarily religious charter schools by vouchers. What part of the Constitution banning the promotion of religion by the state do you not understand? Or, is this just one more defiant breach of the rule of law?

Pamela Partridge
self
San Antonio, TX

Hi, my name is Pamela Partridge and I am opposed to Senate Bill 10 and am asking the committee to vote against it. I live in San Antonio and am proudly Jewish. Texas is my home and it is where I imagine raising a family and children, but this bill puts that at threat. Yes, the 10 commandments are a core tenant of Judaism as well as they are in Christianity, but they have no place in the classroom and not to mention, the ten commandments that are proposed are clearly and overtly Christian and not secular.

This bill is in direct violation of the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment. The precedent set in *Stone v. Graham* clearly prohibits the placing of 10 commandments in public schools. It also did not pass the Lemon test.

1. A “statute must have a secular legislative purpose”

a. Did you know that Jews do not write out the full name of G-d? We write either “G-d” or “Gd” or use other names in our religious texts. This is because it is too holy to be written down. The text that this bill proposes spells out the name of G-d and that alone does not represent all religions, only Christianity.

b. The first commandment in Judaism is actually, “I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage.” The commandment you propose is “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Again, these differ.

c. Even a&b are explaining religious reasons, which also means that this statute is clearly not secular.

2. “Its principal or primary effect must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion”

a. This bill places teachers in a position to explain the 10 commandments and most likely than not, explain them from a Christian perspective. These commandments will not just sit on a wall. Kids will ask about them and ask about tough themes that are laid out in them (adultery, coveting, murder, etc). This bill removes the parents’ autonomy to explain these issues with their children. Teachers will be advancing Christianity by explaining these values through the lens of the 10 commandments.

3. The statute cannot promote “an excessive government entanglement with religion”

a. I believe I’ve laid out that this does in fact promote an excessive government entanglement with religion. There is no doubt that the 10 commandments being placed in public schools is an entanglement.

This bill is unconstitutional and threatens to tear the wall between church and state. This bill blatantly disregards any religion and is a clear reflection that Texas does not care about religious minorities nor does it care about the core family unit as it is removing the autonomy and authority of families to teach their children about religion.

I urge the committee to please vote against the bill.

Chloe Mills
self
Round Rock, TX

I am devoutly religious person, but do not think we should be requiring the 10 Commandments in schools. First, this seems to be an obvious violation of freedom of religion. Our school is diverse and we have students from various religious and cultural backgrounds! I love it! Secondly, this places an undue burden on teachers, who already have a hard job. Why prescribe the size? What should a kindergarten teacher say if a student asks about adultery? Thirdly, forcing religion in schools corrupts religion. I love my faith and am so grateful for my religious heritage. By merging something very personal and sacred with government, the CHURCH becomes corrupted.

Sara Farmer
Self, Writer
Austin, TX

My name is Sara Farmer. I live in Austin and my three children attend Texas public schools. We do not practice a religion, but I have worked to teach my kids about as many of them as I can. All are fascinating and worthy of respect.

I have also taught them about freedom of religion in this country and how important it is. That means that state-funded institutions should not have religious displays or actions. I would not mind at all if children had a class that teaches about the world's religions. Displaying the Ten Commandments does not do that. It should be all religions (or all the ones of the students at that school at least) or none.

I went to Catholic school until high school and I don't think we had the Ten Commandments displayed in the classroom. Religion was for Mass and religion class. The rest was academics unbiased.

Jacob Cabe, Associate Professor
Tarrant County College
Haltom City, TX

Remove 10 Commandment requirement for schools- as it highlights the hypocrisy of the government body enforcing, reducing it to a symbol or endorsement from a group it has no intention of following. Post the beatitudes instead sure.

Christin Bentley
SD-1 State Republican Executive Committeewoman
Winona, TX

I urge the committee to support SB 10, which would require public schools to display the Ten Commandments in each classroom. This bill is not only constitutionally appropriate, but educationally and historically significant.

The Ten Commandments are a foundational text in Western civilization and deeply influential in the development of the American legal and cultural tradition. The Commandments have historically shaped conceptions of justice, moral order, and law that have guided societies for centuries, including our own.

The Ten Commandments are part of the intellectual and moral heritage that influenced early American legal principles. Concepts such as prohibitions against theft, perjury, and murder are not only moral but legal standards. Understanding these principles is essential to any serious study of the roots of American law and governance. Their presence in the classroom is an acknowledgment of this heritage, and not an imposition of belief, but a recognition of historical influence.

A classical education emphasizes the study of the great ideas, texts, and traditions that shaped the modern world. Exposing students to the Ten Commandments aligns with that mission, offering them context for understanding the ethical and philosophical foundations of Western thought. Just as we study the Code of Hammurabi, Athenian democracy, Roman law, and Enlightenment philosophy, the Ten Commandments deserve visible recognition as a foundational text.

Displaying the Ten Commandments offers students of all backgrounds the opportunity to consider timeless principles related to truth-telling, respect for others, family responsibility, and self-restraint. These are values that support positive character development and a well-ordered society. While the state does not require belief, it can reasonably promote reflection on principles that have historically supported civic virtue.

The bill explicitly allows for donated materials and does not require school districts to expend public funds. Moreover, the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that the Ten Commandments can be displayed in a historical and educational context, especially when not part of religious instruction. SB 10 aligns with these legal precedents.

Supporting this bill is not about promoting religion, but rather acknowledging the historical and moral texts that contributed to the formation of American identity and law. The Ten Commandments are a cultural cornerstone, and their presence in classrooms encourages reflection, historical understanding, and moral literacy.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 10.

Silvia Reveles-Scheller
Self
Austin, TX

As a lifelong Texan raised in a deeply christian household, I consider this bill deeply offensive and disrespectful of my fellow brothers and sister Texans. First, all Texas families clearly have the freedom to pursue their own deep spiritual beliefs. As much as I respect for myself, I respect others fundamental freedom as well. To impose my christian beliefs in a school would be an act of supremacy and clearly Texans are by religion, cultural, ethnicity are proud of longstanding Native American, Asian, Latino, Germanic heritages. This bill is simply nonsensical. I suggest makinh a mural instead of our rich spiritual heritage instead. Thank you.

Lindsay Speyrer, Mrs.

Self

Tomball, TX

The Ten Commandments have no place in public school. Separation of church and state are a reality which means that Christianity should not have to be displayed in a public state run school. The reality of a public school means students are of varying religious beliefs and schools should not pick one religion to focus on.

Also, posting the words, "You shall. It commit adultery" in an elementary school will only cause problems for the teachers having to answer questions from curious children. No positivity would come from posting the Ten Commandments because then the schools are going to start teaching religion? I disagree with this bill.

juliana bucio, student

Spark Change Project

Pflugerville21, TX

Hello, my name is juliana bucio, I am a 17-year-old student and a proud spark change ambassador. When America was first created, our founding fathers had 2 main ideas: all people are created equal, and these people have fundamental rights such as liberty, free speech, freedom of religion, due process of law, and freedom of assembly as stated in the Bill of Rights. The bill that is trying to be passed today directly negates these rights. Religious freedom means that everybody gets to believe in whatever religion they choose, whether or not others agree with it.

This bill neglects to acknowledge all of the other religions. Why is it that this religion gets a pass for its posters in school and not the others? This bill is discriminatory and erases years of traditions and history of other cultures. If we are to represent Christianity, Catholicism, Judaism, and Islam, which are all religions where the Ten Commandments are featured, then we must acknowledge the other religions. What about Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Daoism, and 10,000 more? Who will be the one to hang up 10,000 posters in our schools?? It's a trick question, you won't because the agenda this bill is pushing is religious Supremacy, not religious freedom.

I would like to believe, as a Christian myself, that the people trying to pass it are doing it because they believe it is what's right in the eyes of God/jesus, and they are not doing it for control. And to the people with that motivation, I would like to read your quote from the bible said by jesus: "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourself this day for whom you serve" Joshua 14:1. How I interpret that verse is that jesus says you should be able to worship separate religions. And in Matthew 10:14, he says, "If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave the home or town and shake the Dust off your feet". Here, jesus is saying that you cannot force religion on someone. It has to come naturally.

As a Christian student who will have to see these posters every day if the bill is passed, they make me uncomfortable. It makes me uncomfortable to see my fellow students be unwelcome in a space where we have to go every day. It makes me uncomfortable to know that it is my religion forcing me onto others. And it makes me uncomfortable to know that my religion is pushing forth such an isolating bill and that our Texas government is more worried about posters in classrooms than about the quality of the material that we are learning in these classrooms. This is against the law, this is not separation of church and state, and this is discrimination.

Patricia Yeargain

Self

Austin, TX

Religious freedom is a fundamental value in Texas and across the United States. This freedom commands that we have the right to practice the faith of our choice or none at all, free of government interference or involvement. It also flies in the face of giving parental choice!

Helen Morris, Ms
Myself
Austin, TX

School has no place in distributing and presenting religious information. Children should be learning from their families not from school. We have a diverse population in Texas and all people should have the right to go to school without having to have another religion presented to them. The great thing about America is the freedom of choice. The bible even calls for separation of church and state.

Lynn Sudbury
self * CPA
North Richland hills, TX

- Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.
 - True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.
 - Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.
 - Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others.
 - Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education
-

Emily Sternfeld
Self
Austin, TX

Please do not pass this law, this absolutely unconstitutional! This country was founded on religious freedom & completely negates separation of church & state. Religion should not be forced on children in public schools!

Jo Champion
Self
Round Rock, TX

I would like to provide commentary on the proposed legislation that would allow for the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. Whereas a multitude of persons would agree that faith is a critical component of the human experience, as it guides, comforts, and heals, we must be mindful to maintain that our public schools, which are funded by public monies, are open and welcoming to students and staff of all faiths and backgrounds. I think we can all reasonably agree that yes, loving and caring for our neighbors, being truthful, honoring our parents, our commitment to our spouse, etc. are all good things and widely-held norms across a multitude of cultures and faiths, but if these same statements were to come from a different teaching, would this body still be pushing as hard for it to be placed in every classroom? If the answer is “no,” then we must ask, is it the values or is it the religion we are pushing? And if the answer is the latter, we, in alignment with our Constitution, must not pursue this bill. Schools teach these values through character education components in our public schools, so I ask this body of lawmakers why not post these ideals instead? The character strands of Trustworthiness, Responsibility, Caring, and Citizenship are all wonderful ideals for students and staff to see and strive for daily. As a parent, I would be furious if my child’s public school tried to teach her any specific religion as something she should believe in and follow. It is up to us as parents to teach those lessons and answer our child’s questions about faith. I ask that this bill be reconsidered as it seems to overstep onto a slippery slope that we need not engage with. Thank you so much for your time and your consideration.

Anna Dvorak, Dr
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill

Kathy Turner
Self retired
Mcgregor, TX

Strongly support - the Ten Commandments are the basis for our laws

Deborah Mueller, Ms
Self, Director of Operations
Houston, TX

I am lifelong resident of Texas, and my husband of 30 years and I raised two children here. We all four attended Texas public schools for our entire K-12 educations. I am opposed to SB10. One of the things I valued about sending my children to public schools was the variety of people they (and I as their mother) encountered that we would not otherwise have a natural opportunity to interact with. People of a variety of races and religious backgrounds. I respect the fact that the Ten Commandments have influenced our nation, but I think requiring them to be displayed in schoolrooms sends a message not of their importance in the history of our legal system, but rather one of a preference by the State for Christianity over other religions. This is not an acceptable message to convey to anyone. The State of Texas is not a religious state, but a governmental one. Please do not confound the two, nor transmit the covert message to those citizens of Texas who are not Christian that they are not welcome, that they are somehow inferior. Please vote against SB10. Thank you for your time.

Brittney Hoch
Self
Bastrop, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Our society seems to be moving backwards. Religion does not belong in schools. Posting the 10 commandments is not appropriate. Please consider not passing this.

Shailaja Hayden, Dr.
Self, physician
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

Debra Espinosa
Self, parent
Austin, TX

Please refrain from adding this excessive regulation from TX public school. It may seem like a small task, yet it's one more thing on a mountain of many many things expected of the public school.

Sandra Carter
Self
Keller, TX

Since there is so much concern regarding "parental choice", I'm appalled at the current legislative body so intent on taking away parent's choice on religious instruction of their children. I believe in separation of church and state. This is an unconstitutional bill.

Abby Roberts
Self - Teacher
NOLANVILLE, TX

As a public school teacher in Texas, I've seen the state emphasize parental rights in education—whether through book bans or curriculum oversight. If we truly believe parents should direct their children's moral and religious upbringing, then the interpretation and teaching of the Ten Commandments belongs at home, not in the classroom. Even if the state were to openly favor Christianity as the religion of Texas, whose version of the Ten Commandments would be displayed? The Protestant and Catholic versions differ, and choosing one inherently marginalizes the other. Mandating such displays not only risks excluding students of other faiths or none at all, but also contradicts the very principles of religious freedom and parental control the state claims to uphold.

Stacy Dill
Self - volunteer
Round Rock, TX

I am a former professional educator and I oppose SB10. Public schools exist to serve all students of diverse backgrounds. My family is of mixed faith and we have been able to navigate including both religious traditions throughout our students' k-12 educations. Their friends are students who were Christian, Jewish, Jehovah's Witnesses, Buddhist, Atheist, and Muslim. All students deserve the right to follow their personal religious practices as this is protected by their 1st amendment rights. This bill directly goes against the 1st amendment of the US constitution. Requiring public schools to post the 10 commandments is a big slap in the face to our non-Christian families and neighbors. If a child's parents want their student to learn about the 10 commandments, then it is the parents responsibility to teach that to their child. Public schools are a place of learning, not indoctrinating children to a faith.

Please maintain separation of church and state by keeping our schoolhouse walls free from a skewed one-religion preference.

Jennie Birkholz
self
Round Rock, TX

I respectfully submit this comment in strong opposition to any proposal requiring the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools.

As a leader in the Christian community, I value the teachings of my faith deeply. But I also believe that religious belief must come from the heart — not from government mandate. Public schools should be welcoming spaces for students of all faiths and those of no faith. Requiring a religious display in every classroom undermines the First Amendment's protection of religious freedom and government neutrality toward religion.

I also want to be clear as a Christian parent: I do not want teachers, school administrators, or the government responsible for teaching my children the Christian faith. There are many different theologies and interpretations within Christianity, and I take seriously my role as a parent in guiding my children's spiritual education. That responsibility belongs to families and faith communities — not to the public school system.

Mandating the posting of the Ten Commandments risks alienating students from diverse religious backgrounds and sends the wrong message about the role of government in matters of faith. Schools should focus on providing a strong, inclusive education that respects all students without promoting any one religious viewpoint.

I urge you to reject this proposal and uphold the religious freedom and parental rights of all Texans.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Shelley Barnes
self
Dripping Springs, TX

Vote YES! We are overdue for providing a moral base that everyone should live by. YES, YES, YES!

Rebecca Pederson
Self
Dallas, TX

The display of The 10 Commandments does nothing to further Christianity, and also, our nation was built on the separation of church and state. This bill tramples on that principle. Our schools are to be inclusive places of learning. By placing The 10 Commandments in the classroom we could be unintentionally(or intentionally) signally to some children that they are “less than”, and that is not something that should take place in our schools. I have attended a Christian Church all my life and I do not see this regulation as the proper furtherance of my principles as a Christian or a native Texan. Please do not pass this bill.

Karen Darby
Self - Retired Attorney at Law and Part-Time Organist
Georgetown, TX

My question about SB 10 is, how can we display the Ten Commandments, which are part of the Judeo-Christian tradition, without giving equal coverage to the codes or "rules" established by other religions? Islam is an Abrahamic religion, but do they observe the Ten Commandments as outlined in the Book of Exodus? Is it not a violation of the First Amendment's establishment clause to appear to be requiring the observance of the rules of one particular religious sect? I see by the House Analysis on this bill that apparently a recent US Supreme Court case gave permission for this kind of display if the display accorded with the "history and tradition" previously displayed or practiced in bygone times. I call BS. If we continued practices based on what we used to do (our history) or what traditions we've observed, then black people would still be enslaved; women would still be considered chattel; neither of those groups could vote, and only landed gentry could have any say in what goes on in government. I am opposed to the passage of SB 10.

Leah Hawkins
Self- retired
Bedford, TX

There is no place for the 10 commandments in public schools. Although they are universal truths, posting them could be seen as pushing a Christian agenda, which definitely has no place in our public schools.

Carrie King
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Carrie King. I'm an Austinite and a mother of 3 children who each attend our neighborhood Title 1 public schools. I am the daughter of a Taiwanese immigrant mother and a second generation Sicilian and Alsatian father. I've devoted much of my adult life to raising my children, as a stay at home parent, but before that I spent about 13 years working as an assistant in Montessori classrooms. Unlike the majority of private schools in Texas, Montessori schools do not adhere to any particular religion, but rather students are encouraged to engage in the study of diverse world cultures and religions. I watched first hand as elementary aged students explored a variety of ancient religions, spiritual practices, and cultural celebrations from across the globe. I watched first hand as their studies of other cultures and religions opened their minds to other ways of thinking. This bill centers on the issue of promoting one particular religion in the public sphere, above all others. Elevating Christianity above all other religions of the world robs Texas students of the opportunity to grow and learn with an open mind and heart. My personal experience as a Texas public school student left me wondering what else there was beyond the One God mentioned in the Pledge of Allegiance. Today, I consider myself to have a fulfilling spiritual life, but I choose to steer clear of anything that's overly burdened with dogma. Born into an intact democracy (barely, Nixon resigned 5 months later), I've enjoyed the right to explore a variety of religions throughout my life.

I am one in about 31 million Texans. My story, my background, and my current choices around religion are my own. Last time I checked, it's my own sovereign right to subscribe to whichever religion I choose. That right extends to all Texas children. This bill completely disregards the notion that we live in a society that shows equal respect the sanctity of all religions. In fact, I'd go so far as to say we've really been messing up in this department. How can we ask our public school children to recite the pledge of allegiance everyday, ending with "liberty and justice for all" when the culturally conservative activists in our society are doing everything they can to assert Christian dominance over almost every facet of civil life? My point is this- I actually have no problem at all with the Ten Commandments being posted in public school classrooms. However, other major religions should enjoy equal exposure. Perhaps rotate the display of religious content, maybe highlight a different religion each month. Or, simply showcase all major religions in an equitable fashion alongside the Ten Commandments. When it comes to education and child development- within the limit of age-appropriateness, the more the merrier where exposure is concerned. Our children deserve equitable exposure to religions of the world, which in turn fosters tolerance and empathy. Thank you, and bless you.

Rhonda Gilliland
Self
Irving, TX

Please vote yes, so that we may restore our schools back to the way they were supposed to be when our founding fathers used the Bible as their curriculum. If the students see the 10 Commandments, it will make an impression on them to treat other people properly. School violence will go away, and the kids will be able to learn because there will be a new atmosphere. Thank you so much please turn our schools back to a place of learning instead of violence. Thank you.

Abby Hancock
Self
Dallas, TX

The Supreme Court has held that the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools is unconstitutional. *Stone v. Graham* (1980). That case has not been overturned, and this State has an obligation to follow the law of the land.

Kevin Chen
Self
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill, as it's a violation of the Constitution and the separation of church and state.

Stephanie Guignard, Mrs
Self
Fairview, TX

I OPPOSE this bill.. we must respect all rights to freedom of religion per the constitution

Rebecca Morgan
Self
Houston, TX

As written in this bill, the 10 commandments are written in language that is hard for an elementary student to understand. By requiring teachers to post them on the classroom wall, we are taking away precious space from other important learning topics. The money spent to post these posters could be better used on school supplies, teacher pay, teacher training and many other things. There are over 10,000 elementary and middle schools in Texas. Multiply that by the number of classrooms and the cost for posting the 10 commandments is not worth it. Finally, I am a life-long Christian. I attend church every single Sunday. I can count the number of Sundays I have missed church in my entire life. My faith is extremely important to me and I try my hardest to live by the 10 commandments daily. I also love this country and respect the constitution. The First Amendment prevents congress from creating or establishing a religion, and thereby prevents the power of the government from expanding beyond civil matters. The First Amendment also protects people's right to worship however they choose, or to not worship at all. By posting the 10 commandments, we are ignoring those that choose to worship a different god, and those that choose not to worship at all. Our founding fathers wanted to keep the government from telling people who to worship and how to worship. I don't want anyone telling me who I should believe in. What is the point of this bill? Is it to convert students who aren't Christian to Christianity? If so, I don't think a poster is going to do it. Is the point to make them feel left out? If so, is that what Jesus would want? Jesus led by example, not with a rod and a stick. This bill is one of the most un-Christlike things I have seen. Please use the time spent on this to fix the education gap. To ensure ALL students have a safe and welcoming environment to learn in and that teachers be paid what they deserve for shaping the minds of our future leaders.

Amanda Schell
Self
Frisco, TX

This proposal is misguided. It is harmful to my faith and religious freedom for all. Public schools are responsible for serving students of all faiths or no faith, not for indoctrinating students in matter of faith. The state has no authority to pick and choose scripture to direct the religious beliefs and practices of its citizens. Not only that, but the Supreme Court has held that the posting of the Ten Commandments in school is unconstitutional. *Stone v Graham* (1980). That case has not been overturned, and this State has an obligation to follow the law of the land. I strongly urge you to vote against SB 10.

Linda Northern
Self - Retired
Fort Worth, TX

This bill clearly violates the separation of church and state. We are a country made up of many faiths. I consider that a strength. To display the Ten Commandments on ANY government building is a violation of the freedom of religion, and of the First Amendment. It establishes a dangerous precedent toward Christian nationalism. That would be disastrous for a country that began with the ideal of freedom to worship as one chooses, or to choose not to worship at all. While the Ten Commandments are a wonderful guideline for living, displaying them should be left to homes, churches, and private establishments.

The First Amendment prohibits Congress from establishing a religion or interfering with the free exercise of religion. This principle was famously articulated by Thomas Jefferson in a letter where he described it as a "wall of separation" between church and state.

We fought the Revolutionary War for this freedom, among others. Let's not go back.
Please do not vote for this bill.

Rebecca Bell-Meteresu, Dr.
Self
San Marcos, TX

This clearly violates the Establishment Clause and the separation of church and state.

Marcia Strickler-Watson, President
Capital Area Conservative Republicans Club
Austin, TX

Please approve this bill so we can help our students and our teachers with how to handle morale values and behaviors

Teresa Martini
Self
Dallas, TX

I am a parent of two children currently attending Texas public schools and I am against this bill. Public schools are not the place for religious imagery of any kind. Our kids do not need to see the ten commandments to learn good morals. Teachers are more than capable of teaching character building lessons. Religious conversations are for the home, not public schools. Don't give teachers and schools any more mandates that aren't funded appropriately and supported by the majority of your constituents.

Carolyn Dower
self - retired nurse
Austin, TX

Please OPPOSE this bill. Let PARENTS decide what kind of religious education (if any) their child is exposed to. And it certainly should not be in school.

Yelin Martin
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I am against displaying the Ten Commandments in public classrooms because it is not ethical and creates divisive culture.

Amber Irwin
Self, Mother of two children
Richmond, TX

As a Christian mother of 2, I do not want this bill passed. Firstly because as a true Christian, I do not want other people teaching my children about the Bible. That is my job and the job of our religious leaders. Secondly, the wording of the commandments is wrong. Not coveting thy neighbor's wife is it's own commandment and it comes BEFORE not coveting his goods or house. There are too many forms of Christianity to be distilling it all down to one person's wording of the commandments. This is not mine. Thirdly, because as a proud patriotic American I know that this great country and this great state was founded on separation of church and state. Religious freedom is paramount. If this bill is passed who is to say if the quaran or the commandments of Satan will not be put in schools. It is a slippery slope. There are as many religions as their are people in this state. If tax dollars fund this, why would they not fund that too? Vote no on this bill. It is a waste of tax payer money. It is not going to help anything. Ans it spits in the face of true Christians and proud patriots.

Maureen Brown
Self
Austin, TX

SB 10 is not about freedom. If it was about freedom there wouldn't be one religion represented in the classroom. I am not raising my kids to go to a public school and learn about the Ten Commandments. That is for religious school education. In fact anyone who wants to send their kids to a religious school CAN with the voucher bill. So where is the place for people who Don't want to send their kids to a religious school? Apparently with this bill we are going to eliminate religious free classrooms from America? This has nothing to do with religious freedom and everything to do with indoctrination of my children against my will. How is that helping promote parental control? This is a farce and shows how biased this bill is towards one faith.

Nick Mollberg
self, software sales
Austin, TX

I stand in firm opposition to this bill, as it is clearly unconstitutional. This obviously violates the constitution and is waste of taxpayer dollars. Please either agree to uphold the constitution or resign your position.

Rob Ryman
self
Arlington, TX

This's unconstitutional and theocratic. It's a blatant violation of church and state separation. Freedom of religion does NOT mean that Christianity can be imposed on everyone else! That isn't faith. It's the indoctrination of children.

Omar Rivera
Self
austin, TX

I am writing this comment not to be seriously considered or even heard by the republican legislators supporting this bill, because I'm not naive to the fact that those legislators are not in any way concerned with the values, opinions, concerns or welfare of ordinary Texans and are solely focused at pushing forward a Christo-facist agenda and serving as sycophants to their billionaire masters funding their campaigns which keep them in power. I am writing this comment to record in the annals of history that I stood on the right side of history and opposed this coup of racist and fascist hypocrits masquerading as people of virtue and "godliness" but in truth, purport to profess religion for the true objective of thwarting free will, critical thinking and systematically subvert generations to come. To the republican legislators who weaponize religion as a tool of oppression against the innocent children of Texas, I truly don't know how you sleep at night. I hope you know that this evil will not stand forever and know that history will not look kindly on your participation in dismantling democracy and your legacy will forever be a stain in our history.

Cameron Coburn
Self
Austin, TX

Hi, My Name is Cameron Coburn. I'm 23 years old and have lived in Texas my entire life. I am here today to tell you that the Bill SB10, Allowing the 10 commandments in a classroom is wrong because it doesn't utilize our taxpayer money correctly. The Texas Education Agency's report from 2024 says that 56% of all public schools get their funding from local sources such as property taxes (meaning how many people live in the area determines how much money the school gets.) However only 27% of funding for public school comes from the state level. How are public schools supposed to survive if they are in a low income area? The answer right now is they can't, and I believe if we stop focusing on bill SB 10 we can move our focus to adding more state funding for underserved schools. I believe, as a former christian, helping those who need more general education funding rather than adding the 10 commandments in Public School is something both Jesus and Moses probably would have wanted.

Another thing to note is the amount of money public schools are given by the state is not enough. This is referred to as the basic allotment, and it has stayed stagnant for six years. While the number may seem higher, it is the same because it has been adjusted for inflation. I also do not understand why we had passed bill SB 2 (the voucher bill) which takes my money and all of Texan citizens' tax paying money to fund private schools. These schools have a choice on who gets in and is not open to the public. Please tell me why my public dollars are going to private schools that serve mostly rich white students rather than funding public education. My public tax money should go to public education.

This is wrong, I want to leave with a quote from Thomas Jefferson's 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptist Association: "I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church & State." Thank you. And I hope to see you all in 6th grade American History.

Paula Hall
Self; Retired CPA
Plano, TX

I believe in separation of Church and & state.
Our public schools are compromised of a beautiful mosaic of children from various ethnicities & religious beliefs. To impose one faith over another is not what our forefathers intended. As a follower of Jesus, I implore you to follow his path of inclusivity.

FRANK FEHMEL

No institution

Dallas, TX

Our government was created on the belief that all men {and women} are created equal and that church and government are separate entities. The Ten Commandments should not be displayed in Public Schools.

Cynthia Gilliland

Self

Dallas, TX

Please vote against SB10. My community (and my neighborhood) is very diverse. Texans come from many different faiths. I believe that faith and religion should be kept out of public schools for two reasons. First, since Texans come from many different faiths, it's not right to show preferential treatment to one specific faith. Second, I believe that parents should be responsible for teaching their own children about their own religion. This bill will take that right away from a large group of people. As someone who worships with the Christian faith, I believe that everyone should come to their own faith beliefs by choice, not by force.

Kevin Cantara

Self

Houston, TX

This is one of those situations in which the people who are backing this bill are being as foolish as they are cowardly. They are choosing to frame this as a nod to the history of the founding of our nation which, even if we pretend their rationale is based on the truth (it isn't, but let's pretend), serves only one purpose - push as many non-Christians as possible out of education.

These people want to be certain their children are only taught by Christians. Not just Christians, but the specific kind of evangelical Christian that would think this disgusting overreach tolerable.

It would be literally blasphemous for members of other religions to choose to spend their day in the shadow of the first 3 commandments and everyone involved knows this. It is, in fact, the point of the legislation.

This would be craven enough if it weren't for the fact that many of these same people rammed an extremely unpopular bill through the legislature to make certain that the children of the constituents they represent would be able to attend private religious schools on the taxpayers' dime anyway. This makes this bill not just craven and overreaching, but superfluous as well. Unless of course the goal of it was to drive away the millions of non-Christian Texans from the state. But that couldn't be the point, could it? Those in favor of this bill would surely stand up and say that with their whole chest instead of cowardly hiding behind thin and hollow justifications, right? Right?

Lastly, at a time when the state of Texas is struggling to produce, attract, and/or retain teachers, it is absurd to drive more away from the profession. Even if your goal was to turn Texas into a segregated "Christian" "utopia", surely you wouldn't want to immediately burden the teachers you DO want teaching your kids with the pressure of being stuck trying to wrangle being at schools in which half of the teaching positions aren't filled. You'll end up with all your evangelical teachers quitting too!

Do y'all not remember 2020? Do you not remember how impossible the challenge of teaching your children became when you couldn't send them to school EVEN THOUGH someone was writing and recording curricula for you and all you had to do was make sure your kids tried to do it?

This bill is nonsense. Through and through. It is a myopic, craven attempt to prove that the Church (certainly not the church down the road that I don't like, but my good and correct church, actually) is in charge here in Texas. As if anyone, anywhere thought differently anyway. The externalities have not even been thought of, let alone accounted for.

As for anyone who votes for this bill, may God have mercy on your souls. I hear that greed, gluttony, pride, wrath, and lust for power are all sins.

Or was that only at the church down the road?

Jessica Erfan
self
Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote NO on SB10. As a parent of elementary school-aged children, I am deeply concerned about the attempt to mandate religious content in public school classrooms. This bill is a clear violation of the separation of church and state, and it imposes one religious perspective on children of all backgrounds and beliefs. That is not the role of government or our public schools.

And let's talk about age appropriateness for a moment. I find it absurd that my kindergartner—who is still learning their ABCs—could be expected to sit under a poster with the words "adultery" and "kill" on it. If those words appeared in a library book, many parents would call for its removal. But under SB10 we're supposed to mandate them in every classroom?

Beyond the constitutional and moral concerns, SB10 also places an unfunded burden on school districts that are already in financial crisis. Many districts are cutting enrichment programs, laying off staff, or even shutting down campuses. So how much will it cost to print, frame, and install these mandated displays in every classroom in every public school across the state? Where's that money coming from—music, art, counseling?

This bill does not help students learn. It does not address teacher shortages, literacy gaps, or school safety. It's an unnecessary distraction from the real work of educating Texas children. Religious instruction belongs in homes and houses of worship, guided by families and faith leaders—not mandated by the state and displayed in public school classrooms. Please do the right thing and vote NO on SB10.

Seema Desai, Dr.
Self entrepreneur
Round Rock, TX

No. Children should not be forced to practice one religious faith over others in public schools. Public schools are for ALL, not just those who identify as Christian

misty Hurley
self employed
San Antonio, TX

I believe in freedom of religion as outlined in the Constitutions of our great state and great country. We must uphold our nation and state values through separation of church and state. Keep the 10 commandments out of our classrooms!

Autumn Lauener
Self, MSW Student
Houston, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 10.

This bill mandates that all public elementary and secondary classrooms display the Ten Commandments, a religious text originating from a specific theological tradition. While proponents may argue this serves as a moral or historical reference, it is crucial to recognize that our public schools are not places for government-endorsed religious messaging. SB 10 risks violating foundational constitutional protections, particularly the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which prohibits the government from promoting or endorsing religion.

Public schools serve diverse communities with students from a wide array of religious and non-religious backgrounds. Mandating a religious text in every classroom sends an implicit message that the state favors one particular belief system. This undermines the religious neutrality that public education is constitutionally obligated to uphold. Students and families who do not subscribe to the religious framework of the Ten Commandments may feel excluded, stigmatized, or pressured to conform to a belief system they do not share. That is not education—it is coercion.

The U.S. Supreme Court has previously ruled on this very issue. In *Stone v. Graham* (1980), the Court struck down a Kentucky law requiring the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools, stating that such a mandate “had no secular legislative purpose” and was therefore unconstitutional. SB 10 not only mirrors that invalidated policy but does so in an even more prescriptive way, requiring specific formatting, placement, and display across every classroom. These provisions make clear that the intent is not neutral observance but explicit religious endorsement.

Texas schools already face pressing challenges: overcrowded classrooms, underpaid teachers, curriculum censorship, and systemic inequities. Rather than addressing these urgent needs, SB 10 diverts time, attention, and public resources toward a culture war distraction that risks legal consequences and community division. Our students deserve schools that reflect the values of inclusion, critical thinking, and respect—not compelled religious display.

We must remain vigilant in preserving the separation of church and state in our public institutions. I urge lawmakers to reject SB 10 and uphold the constitutional principle that government should not impose religious belief in public education. Let schools focus on fostering academic growth, civic responsibility, and genuine respect for the diversity of all Texans.

Steven Gene Whitworth
self
Mesquite, TX

I am a high school teacher. I am not a Sunday School teacher. My classroom is in a public school. The church is not a public place. The high school is open to everyone, including those who do not practice Christianity. Posting the Ten Commandments will alienate the students. Public schools serve a diverse student body with various religious and non-religious backgrounds. Displaying the Ten Commandments could create an environment where non-adhering students feel like outsiders or are subtly pressured to conform to a particular religious viewpoint. This can be especially impactful in the impressionable setting of a high school classroom. Moreover, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Posting the Ten Commandments, which are inherently religious texts of Judaism and Christianity, could be seen as the school endorsing or favoring these religions over others, or non-religion. This violates the Establishment Clause. Introducing religious symbols or texts into a public school setting can lead to division and conflict among students and within the broader community, including teachers, staff, parents, and stakeholders. Different religious groups may advocate for the display of their own sacred texts, potentially creating an unmanageable and contentious environment. We do not need any additional distractions on top of the tasks we, as teachers, plan and complete for our students, such as submitting lesson plans, administering assessments, and participating in school community events.

Jayne Baker
Retired from HaysCISD
SAN MARCOS, TX

This bill is un-American. Our country was founded on the right to worship at a person's discretion. We are a diverse, multicultural country. We must show respect, understanding, and acceptance for the differences among us and our beliefs. Our education system should in no way favor one religious tradition over another. We have long worked to make sure that there is a separation between church and state. I am part of "we, the people".... and we should be able to uphold our constitution and our values. Vote NO on this bill to display the Ten Commandments.

Kevin Lynch
self, Program Analyst
Fort Worth, TX

SB 10 promotes Abrahamic religions over others. Public schools and all public spaces should be welcoming to citizens from diverse religious backgrounds. Governmental interference in education, especially favoring religious beliefs, should be anathema in the United States and in Texas, a country and State dedicated to freedom and diversity. Students deserve an environment that fosters their learning without religious displays. This bill sets a dangerous precedent of removing religious education from the home and usurping parents' rights in the upbringing of their children.

Ravneet Kaur, Dr.
Self, Dentist
Roundrock, TX

Chairman Buckley and Esteemed Members of the House Committee on Public Education:

My name is Ravneet Kaur, and I am a resident of Roundrock. I am the parent of two children who attend Texas public schools. I'm also a longtime Texas resident with my own thriving dental practice, and I'm a practitioner of the Sikh faith. I'm here today to testify against Senate Bill 10 and all other House and Senate bills requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in Texas public schools.

Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world with 27 million followers worldwide, and our community has a long history here in the United States dating back more than 130 years. We have a vibrant Sikh community in Texas with 21 gurdwaras, Sikh houses of worship, located across the state and growing.

Some vocal members of the Texas Legislature argue that the Ten Commandments are important to display in public schools because Christianity is significant in both American history and Texas history. While this may be true, our nation's Founders were influenced by many different religious and moral frameworks, including Islam and Deism. Native American and African Indigenous spiritualities also played a huge role in our country's early history, according to researchers at the world-renowned, government-funded Smithsonian Institute. Displaying the Ten Commandments as the only religious moral document in taxpayer funded schools is a blatant misrepresentation of our shared American history.

This legislation also promotes one faith—and one specific viewpoint within that faith—over any other, violating the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, the most foundational governing document in this country. As a matter of fact, I was here two weeks ago along with my community members from all over Texas to celebrate our faith, tradition, and acknowledging our contributions in our home state. A concurrent resolution was passed celebrating April 14th as Sikh day, recognizing our integral role of Sikhs in the fabric of our society. Our Founders sought to build a nation grounded in religious freedom, and this legislation insults those Founders' legacy and work. I urge you to vote "no" on SB 10 and protect religious freedom in Texas. Thank you for your time and attention.

Elsie Sullivan, Dr.
self geologist/ professor
Jonestown, TX

Absolutely against this bill. Religious education is the business of the parents. Not the government!

Patty Bandy
Self/Education
Euless, TX

The 10 commandments are two different places in the Bible. There are multiple versions of scripture, interpretations and translations. Likewise, portions of it are racy. If we are worried ab books why would be put adultery and covet as once it is looked up
covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey- these can bring up some very questionable topics. Kids can look these up, question why would someone covet a male/female servants, how do you commit adultery imagine looking that word up on your cell phone in 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th grade and what a kid could see imagewise.

Ashton Skidgell
Self, Bookseller
Austin, TX

My name is Ashton Skidgell, I am a lifelong Texan, and I am here to testify against SB 10, which would enshrine the 10 commandments within Publicly funded schools. The committee must surely be aware that this bill is unconstitutional and is blatant disregard for our first amendment rights, specifically the right to religious freedom.

I would like to preface that I was raised in the church by devout Christians, which has given me a deep understanding of the bible's teachings. I also understand parents' attempts to build up their children to be good citizens through those religious teachings. However, I don't believe displaying the ten commandments in state funded buildings or schools would align with parents' goals.

The first three commandments are dedicated, not to teaching good morals, but to dictate followers exalt and honor the Judeo-Christian God above all others. Commandment one demands "I am the lord thy God, thou shalt not have any other Gods before me, nor shalt thou not make to thyself any graven images," aka idolatry, the second commands no one take the lord's name in vain, and finally, it commands we keep the sabbath holy, the sabbath being a time solely about honoring a particular God for an entire day. These 3 out of 10 commandments have nothing to do with teaching good morals to children.

Understanding this, I believe the intention of this bill is not to foster good citizens, but to enshrine one religion as more worthy of exaltation than others, which is unconstitutional and anti-American.

D.S. Zamora
Self/Retired
Houston, TX

Opposed to passage of SB 10.

** There are too many members of the Legislature who are unwilling and/or unable to follow what we know as the Ten Commandments. During the 88th, a House member had to be expelled since he obviously had cherry-picked which ones he was going to obey.

** The author of this bill apparently does not have a close relationship with the ISDs in his own district. If he did, he'd know that the children of atheists and religions other than the Texas edition of "Christianity" attend some of those schools. My own ISD has students from more than 5 major religions and a number of subcategories within Christianity alone. The bill provides a ****specific**** text to be used. Yet that version is not the original language used, and may not meet an appropriate standard for accuracy.

** Additionally, not all sects of Christianity are in agreement about the Ten Commandments. I advise Phil King to do more homework before he files bills (his bar card should be stripped for pushing for this legislation).

** The funding mechanism for this bill stinks. ISDs will either have to chuck out more money from their cash-strapped accounts or seek private donors. We have existing problems with private organizations funding this type of nonsense in ISDs. Plus, this seems very unChristian to me.

** I don't care to increase funding to the OAG to deal with the inevitable lawsuit. The OAG is presently a money-burning entity that is dysfunctional and has problems with understanding law. We shouldn't have to fund test cases for private nonprofits. They need to pay for attorneys unconnected to government agencies.

** If the bill is doomed to pass, it should have an amendment requiring Phil King to be summoned when any student under age 10 asks about adultery in a classroom once these signs are posted.

Erin Walter, Rev.
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Bastrop, TX

My name is the Rev. Erin Walter, and I am giving written comment on behalf of myself and as the minister and executive director of the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM), in strong opposition to SB 10. Our organization represents thousands of people of faith across Texas, from El Paso to Lufkin, Brownsville to Dennison, in Dallas, Houston, and every major city, in suburbs, small towns, and rural areas. We believe strongly in religious freedom and religious diversity, as well as the right to no religion. We believe in democracy and the importance of the separation of church and state.

As an executive director of a Texas nonprofit and on behalf of 40+ Unitarian Universalist congregations in Texas, I ask you to oppose SB 10 and not let it go any further. This is against the public good and a gross overreach of power, a waste of taxpayer funds, and a distraction from the true needs of Texans. This bill is also morally reprehensible -- to impose one religion on everyone in public schools. It will harm LGBTQIA+ students, including my own, by promoting a religion that is often known to discriminate against them.

On behalf of 40+ Unitarian Universalist congregations in Texas, I ask you to focus on the true needs of ALL Texans, including affordable housing, food, jobs, healthcare, infrastructure for our communities, public schools, upholding human rights and civil rights.

Thank you for your time, and on behalf of the Texas UU Justice Ministry, our congregations, members, and my own family and communities in Bastrop and Austin, please oppose SB 10.

Sincerely,
Rev. Erin Walter, she/her, minister and executive director, TXUUJM

Genesis Britz
Self
Austin, TX

Good evening, my name is Genesis Britz, I am a student at the University of Texas, but I am here today testifying as the product of the Texas public school system, and the Christian faith. My father grew up evangelical christian and attended bible school where he met my mother a devout christian on a mission trip. I was raised to be a woman of faith and a follower of Christ and I did so free from religious persecution, indoctrination from any other belief system and especially without the endorsement of a religion by the state. I never witnessed a set of religious beliefs placed on my classroom walls or was told by anyone that their different religious beliefs were the only way to “true salvation”. That was the beauty of America, when our 1st amendment was honored by the states: freedom of religion which those who voted for SB 10 have may also forgotten protects freedom FROM religion. SB 10 is a Christian nationalist bill in disguise of inclusivity of an “ethics system” in our public schools. A bill that you may have thought would slip through the cracks because it doesn’t require state funds to provide the 16 inches wide and 20 inches tall sheet popularized by the Fraternal Order of Eagles 10 commandments sheet. Coincidentally, the bill does not extend this provision to religious texts or teachings from other faiths. The version the bill requires to be presented is not universally accepted across all religious traditions, including among different Christian and Jewish denominations. Amendments to the bill were attempted so I would like to know rather Texas constituents would like to know why the senate rejected the proposal to include displays of other religious principles—such as the Five Pillars of Islam, the Seven Core Tenets of Hinduism, or the Noble Eightfold Path of Buddhism? These are all very historical ethics systems may I add. If the “goal” of this bill is to reinforce that one should not lie or steal, these principles have been integrated in our school system and laws with zero need for any religious text placed on the walls of our classrooms. If a bill was written this passionately and this precisely about the placement of ANY other religious texts on classroom walls, your republican buddies would have shut it down so quick, there would be NO hearing and if you agree that is the case SB 10 should not have been favored.

Teri Clifford
Self
Bedford, TX

The public schools that my children attend have students from many different countries who worship differently than Christians. Posting the Ten Commandments in the classroom is an overreach and completely unnecessary. There is a no place for religion in the classroom. We have one of the most diverse school districts in the country right here in Texas. This bill is disrespectful to so many of our students.

Avital Cuevas
Self, student
Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Avital Cuevas, I'm 14. I'm a Texas public school student, im Jewish, and I am here to testify against SB 10 In my view this bill is blatantly unconstitutional and is alienating to students in educational spaces. This bill breaks the structure of separation of church and state by quietly literally bringing churches into state funded schools. The ten commandments are a religious artifact, schools are not common religious places. I find it quite ironic almsot that the last time I was testifying here was because of a bill attempting to fight anti semitism in schools and now I'm here to fight against a bill that alienates jewish students among many others in their own school. schools are not only schools to christian students i know a lot of people who went 'and having the 10 commandments be located in every classroom can easily create feelings of alienation and make people feel liek don't belong in spaces like their own schools it makes a jewish student like me feel like i have no place in that community. I also want to ask why this bill takes up so much importance to be brought up in multiple sessions when rather at lest in my option there are much more pressing educational mattersI would like to bring your attention to a terrifying level of gun violence in schools, the fact that children who can yet read DO know how to hide from an active shooter, to pay attention to the bills n this sesssion who would allow students in my school to brings their guns to class with them. I have seen so many other things in my school and my friends that should have eyes on them then not a push to have a specific religious text displayed in classrooms. So please on behalf of students I urge you to vote no on SB 10 and actually help us.

Jennifer Margulies
Texas Jews for Democracy
Austin, TX

My name is Jennifer Margulies, and as both a private individual and a representative of Texas Jews for Democracy, I urge you to protect the religious freedom of Texas students and oppose SB 10 in Texas.

Public schools are for the public: the broad, diverse public that includes Texans of all religions, faiths, and spiritual practices, and Texans who adhere to no religion, faith, or spiritual practice. It seems there's been a lot of confusion lately about what religious freedom means. When it comes to religious freedom, the personal, individual expression of privately held religious beliefs is appropriate in public spaces. But institutional expressions of religious belief BY public entities, like displaying a particular version of the Ten Commandments in Texas public school classrooms, are a violation of the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The establishment of a government-favored religion in public schools is unconstitutional and unfair to Texas students and families.

Speaking for my own religious tradition, the Union for Reform Judaism expresses well the problem with such government-endorsed displays. As the URJ writes on their website, ReformJudaism.org, "Even benign, non-coercive endorsements of religion make outsiders of those who are non-adherents of the endorsed faith."

Please say no to SB 10 and protect true religious freedom in Texas public schools.

Thank you,

Jen Margulies
Texas Jews for Democracy

Jody Harrison, Rev.
Texas Impact and Self; Ordained Minister
Austin, TX

Greetings Chair Buckley and members. I am Rev. Jody Harrison. I am a seminary trained and ordained Baptist minister and chaplain. I also serve as a board member on the Texas Baptist Women in Ministry. I am strongly against SB#10.

Posting the 10 Commandments in every public school classroom goes against – what many of you already advocate. This bill takes away parental rights to raise their child in the religious belief of their choice. With this bill, you insult and offend parents of every religious faith – including other Christians who do not believe exactly as you do. You are elevating YOUR personal faith over every one else's faith.

Some of you may say, well, what's wrong with that?

Well, some Christians might say, you are making a false God out of your religion by putting your religion above all other spiritual beliefs.

Legislators, when you use your authority to make your personal religious beliefs the law over all human beings whose faith differs from yours, you enforce YOUR personal religion on everyone. That is Christian Nationalism.

We should not force religion down the throats of our children in public school. THAT is what is happening here.

Last, as mentioned in the Senate hearing on this bill, who is going to be the person to answer the child who stops class in the middle of the day and has questions about what the wording means? A teacher? And what of the non-Christian teacher in the classroom? Let parents decide which religion to teach their children. Vote NO on SB#10.

Jennifer Larrew
Self
Lakeway, TX

I oppose SB 10. As a former teacher, I would hate this. The walls already can't hold everything you would like to post.

I know equity isn't a thing any more. However, I think if this passes, you would have to allow the most prominent text from all world religions. And as a former teacher that would take up WAY too much space.

My final objection is as a parent. When my kiddo learns to read, I don't want him to see the word adultery or murder and ask the teacher what that means. We as a family should cover those topics when we feel he is ready.

Melissa Knight
Self
Austin, TX

NO to SB10 - This does not respect freedom of religion (a constitutional right). Forcing the Ten Commandments into every public school classroom, disrespecting our religiously diverse students and violating our constitutional rights. NO NO NO.

Susanne Rothschild
Self, Certified Project Manager, Business Consultant, Mother
Houston, TX

Please vote FOR SB10 to Display Ten Commandments in classroom. The Ten Commandments are the foundation of ethical behaviors in support of healthy, peaceful, respectful, and responsible society. We learn through repetition and reinforcement. Marketing and the media apply this in their campaigns. Please vote FOR SB10 by King to Display Ten Commandments in the classroom.

Debbie Stanley
Self - educator
Pflugerville, TX

I oppose SB 10 which would force the Ten Commandments into every public school classroom, disrespecting our religiously diverse students and violating our constitutional rights.

Patricia Hartman
Self
Belton, TX

Please do NOT violate our Constitution by allowing the 10 Commandments to be displayed on school property within Texas. We, as a nation, are guaranteed the Freedom of Religion to protect the rights of ALL denominations. Teach our children to respect religions that are different than their own. Start representing ALL Americans, not just Christians.

Aoife Longmore
Self
Austin, TX

Reject this bill. It is ridiculous and goes against freedom of religion.

Krish Nath
Self - Student
Austin, TX

As a student in this state, I ask that religion be left out of public schools. Senate Bill 10 seeks to place the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom in the state, which would amount to nothing less than religious indoctrination and a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. To quote the Constitution of the United States, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion". This strictly worded line from our nations foundational text is as black and white as can be: the government cannot make any law that favors any religion over another. Respecting the Christian faith over all others is exactly what Senate Bill 10 seeks to do. By placing the Ten Commandments in every classroom, as prominently as the flag of the state and nation, the state of Texas would place the religions of Christianity and Judaism over every other religion. While some might say that the state wishes to use the text that God told to the believers on Mount Sinai for its moral and non-religious value, the Ten Commandments are inextricably linked to religion. They are a text given by God to the believers, so while they may have moral value, this makes them directly linked to the Judeo-Christian tradition. What if a student asks their teacher where the words on the wall came from? The teacher would have to respond that they are the words God told to the followers of Christ at Mount Sinai in the Bible, which, considering they would on the wall in a classroom, would impress upon a child that the words of the Judeo-Christian God are true. After all, the purpose of school is to teach the truth. As an atheist myself and someone who knows people of all different faiths, I can be confident in telling you that this would negatively affect the religious freedom of our students and educators. How can you be free from a state religion when one of the most important texts from one of the world's largest religions is on the wall? You can't. Many of the senators who support this bill are strident supporters of parental rights in education, and this clearly violates the parent's right to teach their children religion. Maybe they are atheist and want to teach their children to not believe in God? They should be free to do so, under the First Amendment. But when the First Commandment is "I am the Lord thy God", they are clearly not granted that right. If you support America's founding document, the Constitution, support parental rights in education, and do not wish to turn public schools into Sunday schools, vote against Senate Bill 10.

Dawn Weisman
self
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. It goes against what the founding fathers intended by bringing a specific religion into a public space. I'm also concerned about how the presence of the 10 commandments might make children of non-Christian religions feel. Please keep religion out of public schools.

ANITA KNIGHT
TX Impact, TFN
West Lake Hills, TX

Requiring public schools to post the Ten Commandments in each classroom is not a good idea for several reasons. There was a hearing today, and I hope the Public Education Committee voted it down. It offends citizens, even Christians, who value separation of church and state. I don't know the justification for this idea, but morality and behavior will not be improved by this action. Instead teachers will be involved in difficult conversations about COVETING and ADULTERY. Can the latter term implicate obscenity, which is being targeting with liability in libraries choice of books?

Marian Thompson
Self
Austin, TX

Please do NOT vote for this bill. There are so many students of all religions in our classrooms. This will be so hurtful. You've already tried to pass this. There will be lawsuits and it will be a total waste of taxpayer money

Tyler Peschka
Self
Mansfield, TX

As a Christian, I recommend that SB 10 which mandates public schools to display the Ten Commandments in classrooms to be rejected. While I cherish my faith, this bill violates Texas' Constitution, specifically Section 6 and 6-a of Article I (Bill of Rights), which forbids the state from giving legal preference to any religion or interfering with conscience. The government cannot compel support for religious displays or privilege one tradition in public schools. Doing so undermines both religious liberty and the diversity of our communities. The Legislature's duty is to protect all faiths equally, not impose one. SB 10 risks costly litigation and divides Texans. I ask that our Constitution is upheld by this bill being rejected.

Leanza Bethel
self, attorney
Arlington, TX

Public schools are just that: public. They are responsible for serving the general public's children, irrespective of their different beliefs. As a firm Christian believer myself, I find the separation between faith and state of paramount importance. Attempts to legislate Christianity (or any religion) and indoctrinate students only serve to turn people further away from God. The state has no authority to pick and choose Scripture to direct the religious beliefs and practices of its citizens. Folks must come to faith on their own. Foisting religion on children in schools is just as bad as foisting anti-Christian beliefs on children in schools. Public schools should not be the battleground for these matters. Children should be safe to learn and grow without the influence of adults' religious convictions. Please do not pass this bill.

Roger Mayes, Rev.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I've been a pastor for over 30 years and I strongly oppose displaying the 10 Commandments in public school classrooms. I do not want religious education in public schools. Religious education is for families and churches. I will never want state-led religious education. That is not the job of the state.

Stephanie McCabe
Self, counselor
Austin, TX

This is blatantly against the 1st amendment & will further alienate people from religious liberty and possibly infringe on the desire and curiosity of students to explore their own spirituality. As seen in places such as England where there is an established church many people are not actually active in the teachings of Christ but instead just phone it in, which completely undermines his message to begin with.

This opens up a lot of confusion for students as well as potentially opening up other religious groups from enacting similar literature that pertains to their religion and might also offend other people outside of their faith.

Texas is growing as a state and there has already been backlash and some companies and people leaving Texas and taking their expertise and business opportunities with them due to some of our laws already, such as the abortion ban in our state. Please do not further restrict the economy and growth of Texas by furthering this anti Christian and anti freedom agenda. Christ himself would be upset by this and even more importantly it is anti American to its core.

I urge you to protect our children,our economy and our faith by rejecting this anti constitutional bill.

Laurel Trevino, Mrs.

Self, biologist-educator-illustrator

Austin, TX

As your constituent, at 24 Concord Circle, Austin, Texas 78737, I'm against SB-10, which undermines our Constitution, excludes Texans, and wastes tax dollars. Texas public schools should NOT duplicate the function of Sunday schools by displaying large posters of the Ten Commandments in classrooms. Imposing your religious beliefs on kids in public schools contradicts the separation of church and state, and the freedom of religion stipulated in our Constitution. Since this bill excludes good people who don't follow Christian or Jewish religious commandments, it could negatively impact many students, teachers, and administrators who have different beliefs. Additionally, it might create conflict by pitting students, teachers, or administrators of different religions or beliefs against each other. Contrary to what Texan lawmakers may think; good people aren't necessarily religious. Many people with good ethics and morals lead exemplary lives without being commanded to do so through religion. Many agnostics/atheists abide by high moral standards, and religious dogma is too narrow for folks who identify with The Ethical Society or Unitarian Universalism. Students tend to emulate people, such as their teachers, not lists of Do's and Don'ts. Brighter students will see the hypocrisy in some lawmakers' behavior vis-à-vis the Ten Commandments. Printing and framing large quantities of big posters would incur huge expenses, which contradicts Trump's agenda to cut wasteful spending. Administrators in underfunded districts, who can't afford essential school supplies and educational resources to begin with, would have to practice wasteful spending to comply with a law that duplicates the work of private Sunday schools and undermines our Constitution. This is hypocrisy. The archaic language shows how out-of-touch you are with Texans.

1. I AM the LORD thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images. Buddhist or Hindu students might worship several gods before "me." Check your grammar!

3. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Christians don't worship on sabado. Muslims worship on Friday.

4. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. How do Hindu, Buddhist or Muslim students honor their parents by reading 'The' 10 commandments?

5. Thou shall NOT kill...on Texas family hunting trips! Fact: School kids can get killing guns with strawmen purchases at big box stores and gun shows in Texas.

6. Thou shalt not commit adultery. (Just don't emulate unethical politicians.

7. Thou shalt not steal...or misuse public funds for private gains by diverting our tax dollars to put religion in public education, against our will.

8. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house. Their neighbors won't afford a house after tariffs tank our economy!

2. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, manservant, maidservant, cattle. How many Texans have man/maidservants & cattle?!

Erica Hester
Self teacher
Bryan, TX

I am writing to ask you to protect the religious freedom of Texas students and oppose House Bill 1009 in Texas.

As a Texas teacher and a Christian, I firmly believe public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs. Students already have the right to pray, read religious texts, and express their faith at school. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.

I think our lawmakers often forget that these students are not just numbers. Our teachers have to look in their eyes knowing that our state is choosing to spend their time on bills that take away funding or force religion upon them when they could be using that time to fight for our kids.

What kind of difference could we make if our state worked together to make sure that no child was hungry? What would it be like if all Texans students had access to a fully funded education system? How would our students lives change if we worked on making school a safe place?

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 1009. Families—not government—should direct their children's religious education.

Say NO to HB1009 and protect true religious freedom in Texas public schools.

Danny Starling
self - student
Round Rock, TX

Hi there! I'm Danny Starling, from Round Rock, and I'm a senior graduating in less than a week! I'm also heavily involved in my church's children's ministry, and work primarily with middle schoolers, though I routinely interact with all in my community.

I'm here to urge you to oppose SB10, because this bill creates a hostile environment for students by favouring Christian practice in the class.

As a mentor to many kids whom I care for deeply, I understand how important it is to uplift them and make them feel welcome. Not only does it help students learn, but it also helps them thrive socially and emotionally.

This bill would disrupt that, however, as hanging the 10 commandments sends a clear message to both Christians and non-Christians: government first, students second.

I see this in my own classes, as I attend Christian homeschool groups. When there is only effort in understanding one religion, there becomes a stigma around differing beliefs, and misunderstanding of other religious practices runs rife.

Now, I don't believe it is the state's right to direct religious education. And yet, this bill will transform a environment where people can coexist, into one where an ideology is imposed, all at the government's will.

The other Texas students I know, whether Christian or not, agree on this; that is wrong. In fact, one of my Christian classmate's senior thesis is on why they oppose bills like these.

It's because students deserve inclusive learning environments that I urge the committee to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Beck
Self
Austin, TX

I am a Registered Interior Designer in the state of Texas. I urge you to vote AGAINST SB 10.

Public education spaces are designed to be inclusive and accommodating to individuals of different backgrounds. Spotighting one religion is not only discriminatory but it also violates the separation of church and state.

As an interior designer, I can also attest that teachers already have enough things posted on the walls, primarily student work but also classroom rules and other educational information that isn't biased or religious focused. Visual clutter negatively impacts student learning.

I don't want my school district funds being used on this. It doesn't benefit students and it is burdensome for the schools. Please vote against SB 10. Thank you.

Zachery perkins
Self
Austin, TX

ELECTEDS I demand you vote no on this bill, I DID NOT SERVE MY COUNTRY AND DEFEND YOUR FREEDOMS JUST TO WATCH THEM DESTROYED ONE BY ONE IN 100 DAYS. To put simply this is yet another UNCONSTITUTIONAL bill that is trying to be passed to further push America into a Fascist Christian nationalist dictatorship. Hitler also started with indoctrinating the youth and this reeks of that very same ideology. Let's not forget about the seperation of church and state which isnt a suggestion it's a damn Law. Schools and other places of education are not a place for fiction and make believe they are for facts and nothing else. Allowing posters to go up that idolize a work of fiction alongside displays of tangible documents that actually exist TODAY like the constitution not only demeans the very founding documents of our nation in the eyes of the future of this nation, our children but sets a standard to them that nothing is to be taken seriously not even their rights. The 10 commandments say thou shalt not bear false witness, Donald J. Trump was recently found guilty on 37 felony counts of falsifying business records. The 10 commandments say thou shalt have no other gods before me, Donald J Trump recently called himself a King and threatend to kill anyone who disobeys his orders, that comes from a White House X post that account acts as the PRESIDENTS MOUTH PEICE. Voting yes on this is not only a clear alignment with fascism and a 37x felon dictator that believes himself a god but an utter betrayal of the American people and their children. Voting yes on this comes with a promise from myself, I promise I will not vote for whoever votes yes on this bill and furthermore I promise to do EVERYTHING in my power to get your constituents to UNELECT YOU. Vote No ELECTEDS on SB10

Elizabeth Piner
self, retired
Austin, TX

I object to this bill that will subject public school students to a view that Christianity is the superior religion even though this is a highly personal decision that should NOT be imposed by the government. We must maintain the separation of church and state and this bill will negate the principle of the First Amendment. If you want a document posted that reflects the foundation of our government, it should be the bill of rights, not a religious document. Thank You

Kathleen Katz, Ms

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am a retired teacher. It is the morality taught from home that shapes a student, not a religion in the classroom. If parents want a religious school they should send their child to that school of their choice. Public school should be about formal academic education, which our students are sorely lacking. Time for academics should be paramount in our public schools, isn't that why Elon Musk has started Ad Astra, a Texas school whose focus is math and science? We are behind other countries and we need to focus on that reality, not religion. Religion belongs in the faith houses, and the freedom to practice that faith in America should never be impeded!!

German Amador

Self, retired engineer

Houston, TX

Hello - I am deeply concerned about the implementation of SB10, posting of the 10 Commandments in every public-school classroom. I am a Christian, but I don't agree that the Ten Commandments should be in our public schools for a number of reasons, including the following.

1. There are serious US and Texas constitutional issues (separation of church and state).
2. There are many non-Christian students and parents who would object to a set of Christian rules being placed in front of them every day.
3. Is the teacher supposed to explain what "Thou shalt not commit adultery" means? How does that apply to divorced parents who have remarried? What if the parents are not married? What about gay couples? What about watching an R rated movie?
4. Is the teacher supposed to explain "Thou shalt not kill"? What about killing during war? Capital punishment? "Stand Your Ground" laws?
5. How does a teacher explain "Thou shalt not bear false witness" when we have so many examples of civic and corporate leaders being caught in lies?

The above are just a small sample of the thousands of potential issues which could arise in a classroom setting. Since the Ten Commandments are posted in the teacher's classroom, there is an expectation that the teacher will need to answer questions on these issues. What happens when a teacher's response is not in line with a particular family's value system, Christian or not? Does this open the teacher and the school system up disciplinary action and lawsuits?

And why does the bill only apply to Public Schools? Why not private schools which are taking public money, i.e. Vouchers?

In summary, I think that education on the Ten Commandments should be left to each family either at home or at their place of worship and at an age-appropriate level. Religious teachings should not be a part of a public-school education.

Thank You.

Idona Griffith

Retired

Austin, TX

If I'm not mistaken, the majority of the House just voted on a bill that would put Parents "front and center" in determining what their children learn and are exposed to in the Public Schools of Texas. Yet the same Reps who voted FOR "Parental Choice" last week are wanting to mandate an iconic religious document be posted in every classroom in the state. Anyone who does not see the hypocrisy in this is simply NOT paying attention. I understand that GOP Reps are receiving a LOT of pressure from the governor, but you were not elected by the governor. I implore you to stand strong for all the people you represent: christians, jews, hindis, and muslims as well as those who do not worship. These people are watching right now -- I urge you to be consistent with your previous vote for "parental choice" and vote NO on SB 10.

Catherine Flynn, Dr.
Self
Driftwood, TX

I strongly protest the display of the 10 commandments in PUBLIC schools. The religious influence of our children should be allotted to their families. Thank you.

Dana Ashrawi
Self
Cypress, TX

This bill, to use a religious term, is an abomination. By privileging and mandating the teaching of the Christian ten commandments, it excludes and demotes adherents of other faiths. This does NOT promote understanding and democracy. Please vote NO.

Edith Clark
Self
Red Rock, TX

I strongly oppose HB 10. Placing the 10 Commandments in our public schools is a violation of both the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

Mary Barad
Self
San Antonio, TX

I object to the display of the Ten Commandments in PS classrooms and support separation of church and state

Karen Neeley
Self, retired attorney
Austin, TX

This bill, which would require the posting of a specific version of the Ten Commandments, would violate the Constitutional prohibition on the "establishment of religion" as stated in the First Amendment. More specifically, it codifies a specific religion which is not shared by our beautifully complex population. My great-grandparents came to Texas because of the freedom they found here to practice their religion as Baptists. This bill would violate that right. Please oppose it.

Peggy Morton, Ms.
Self
Austin, TX

As a retired TX public school teacher I support the US Constitution which respects separation of church and state. The 10 Commandments were popularized by Hollywood and I support all of them but not forcing them on children and families who have other equally honorable religious beliefs.

Carrie Holley-Hurt, Rev.

Self

Austin, TX

SB 10 is an affront to the separation of church and state. It also denies the reality that Texans come from all walks of life and diverse beliefs to build something that could be bigger and more beautiful than what could be built from a singular point of view.

No one in the government should dictate a religious interpretation that any child will be exposed to.

If this body is so committed to parental rights that they gut our education system, then surely they can trust parents to guide their children in their religious education. This bill is trying to use God as a weapon for its taudry ends, a repugnant and shameful act.

Christopher Jimmerson, Rev.

self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as anti-religious freedom. How about posting the beatitudes instead?

Stephanie Landgraf

self - business development manager

Austin, TX

I urge the members who voted no on this bill to stay consistent and vote no on SB 10. Thank you.

Luther Elmore, Mr

self (retired state employee - parttime instructor Austin COMomunity COLlege)

Ausitn, TX

SB 10 is a terrible idea. It favors one religion over another (and the King James Version) and crosses the line between separation of church and state. Please reject it.

Sara Winter

Self

Austin, TX

Vote NO! This bill violate religious freedom of Texans!

Traci Sigmon

Self

Austin, TX

I urge those of you who voted for “parent choice” regarding school vouchers to stay consistent and support parent choice regarding freedom of religion, and separation of church and state- no displays of one single religion in public school classrooms!

Tim Gibson

Texas UU Justice Ministry

Dallas, TX

I believe in the separation of Church and State. I oppose this bill.

Elizabeth Johnson
self
Round Rock, TX

I do not support the bill to display the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. I support the Constitution and the clear separation of church and state. I support religious diversity and pluralism. Religious doctrine does not have a place in our public schools, unless it is presented as part of an academic discussion of different religious beliefs.

Melanie Walter-Mahoney
Self
Austin, TX

As a person of faith, I implore you to oppose SB 10. Public schools should respect all Texas' families diverse religious beliefs. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms promotes one religious tradition over all others. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education!

Brett Baker
self
Austin, TX

This is unconstitutional. What happened to the separation of church and state. I'm completely against this bill.

Mary Overton
Self
Austin, TX

I am against SB10 because I believe in the separation of Church and State. It would be better to post The Golden Rule which is not religious , or nothing mandated the State at all.

Sharon Brickell
Self, Communications Director
Garland, TX

Everyone should be free to choose their own spiritual path—and when the government promotes one religion’s rules, like the Ten Commandments, it pushes others aside and crosses the line between church and state.

Megan Field
Self
Austin, TX

I urge everyone on committee to vote against this. This country was founded on the principle of the separation of church and state. I do not want ANY interference from the state regarding religion. My son attends public school and I don’t want any religious displays on those walls. Where will the line be drawn? You open yourself to posting whatever dogma someone suggests. Preserve our liberty and tell the government to stay IN ITS PLACE. That belongs in houses of worship not public schools.

Angela Baker
self, social worker
Austin, TX

I am urging a NO vote for SB10, especially for the same members who previously voted for “parental choice” to be consistent in their votes now and also vote No, using the same logic. No one is denying religious freedoms, but displaying the beliefs and credos of only one religion violates that freedom from others to express their religious beliefs and ideologies. Public schools are there for all members of our society, not just ones with a particular set of beliefs. You can easily teach morals and values, right and wrong, without the public display of religious commandments.

Gina Mateer
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to share that I strongly oppose the ten commandments bill and request that you vote No on this bill. The bill says it is about religious freedom, but it is about control and Christianity only. What happened to separation of church and state? Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families diverse religious beliefs. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments. Placing the 10 commandments in classroom favors 1 religion over all others. My child is in one of the most religiously diverse elementary schools in the state and I can already imagine the harm that will be done by the bill. Raising up one religious tradition can lead individuals to feel under valued and confused, can teach children beliefs that don’t fit in their families framework and create a hierarchy of children based on religious beliefs leading to those who are already the most marginalized being more marginalized. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education. If you voted Parental Choice for school vouchers stay consistent and vote no to this bill! Vote no SB 10

Laurel Moran
self, master's in counseling intern
Richardson, TX

Until this point, we have been living in a pluralistic democracy. According to reliable research, two thirds of Americans identify as Christian. Fully one third do not. As a person in the mental health field who works with people of all religions and no religion, I foresee that the requirement to post the Ten Commandments in public buildings will have a negative effect on the people of our country. The posting of this religious document will encourage some--those who identify as Christians or Christian supremacists--to see themselves as more central and catered to by our country. It will encourage others to view themselves as secondary or less legitimate as members of our culture. Both of these effects can results in many unwanted consequences, including but not limited to negative effects on mental health in our youth and educators. I believe that these consequences are probably desired by those who support this bill. However, those who believe in the project of a pluralistic democracy, one supported by a rational constitution, should not.

Mary Andrews
SELF
Tyler, TX

I am registering my opposition to SB 10. I believe everyone should be free to choose their own spiritual path—and when the government promotes one religion’s rules, like the Ten Commandments, it pushes others aside and crosses the line between church and state.

Sheri Palmer
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose SB10 because it inappropriately inserts government into a deeply personal and private matter: religion. Mandating the display or teaching of the Ten Commandments in public schools blurs the vital line between church and state. Our Constitution protects religious freedom precisely by keeping government out of religious instruction. Families—not the government—should have the freedom to decide how and whether to teach their children religious beliefs.

Public schools serve students of all faiths and beliefs. Promoting one particular religious text in a state-run classroom risks excluding or alienating those who practice different religions—or none at all. That's not unity. That's coercion.

I believe in the right of every family to guide their children's spiritual development in accordance with their values and beliefs. That right must be preserved by keeping our public schools neutral and inclusive for all.

Katherine Dombrowski
Self / Chemical Engineer
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to the posting of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. Government should not be deciding on the religious beliefs that are placed in front of students. This bill usurps parent choice and student choice.

My mother grew up in a Catholic family in the heavily Baptist Port Arthur, TX in the 1950s. She relates how the Catholics were asked to leave the classroom each day during the morning prayer. From her stories, I have learned that religious beliefs have no place in our public school classrooms. They can be used to alienate one sect of Christians from another and to alienate non-Christians from Christians. Let families teach religious beliefs within their family environment, without government intrusion.

Leo Collas
Self
Austin, TX

I very strongly oppose this bill. Church and state must be kept separate.

Robin Rosenstock, Dr
Self
Austin, TX

I feel that families should decide their children's religious education, not the schools. This bill would only give the underfunded schools another mandate that no one wants. I am Jewish and we actually have 613 commandments. Would these also be posted?

Jeannette LaFontaine Mack, Voter
Self
Austin, TX

I am appalled that this is even being suggested!! There are many families that still believe in the separation of church and state and this is a direct violation of our constitutional rights. The United States was founded by people who wanted freedom from being told what to believe!!

I'm not sure what is happening to our democracy but this isn't the direction we should be going in!!

If you want to act as though we still live in a democracy, put this up for a vote!!

That is what should have been done with the school vouchers!! Why does the state legislature think it should decide for the people, democracy is by the people!!!

Coby Crockard
Self
Austin, TX

URGING THE MEMBERS WHO PREVIOUSLY VOTED FOR "PARENTAL CHOICE" TO BE CONSISTENT NOW AND VOTE NO ON SB 10!

Katherine Enyart
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

Marla Loturco
Self
Sherman, TX

I disagree with Senate Bill 10.

Liz Colvin
Myself
Lago Vista, TX

Oppose

David Overton
Self, Consultant
Austin, TX

I oppose SB 10. I believe in the separation of church and state, and this highlights one set of religious beliefs over others.
Thank you, David Overton

Laura Miller
self/substitute teacher, religious educator
Austin, TX

Having the Ten Commandments taken from a Christian translation of the Hebrew Bible is not appropriate for classroom discussion. Exposing children to the concept of adultery is detrimental. Putting words on the wall that are not relevant to learning is a waste of tax payer, teacher and legislative time. As a religious person, I am disgusted by the idea that someone would force their values on children of different faiths and creeds. I thinks it is immoral.

Elizabeth Dombrowski
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to SB10.

LISA HILL

SELF

Austin, TX

SB 10 is one of the most ridiculous proposed bills this session and if passed, has the potential for doing a lot of harm. DO YOU WANT TO ALIENATE NON-CHRISTIANS? DO YOU WANT LESS CHILDREN GETTING EDUCATED IN OUR STATE? DON'T WE WANT AN ?E?DUCATED POPULATION IN TEXAS SO THAT PROGRESS, RESEARCH, AND SCIENCE CONTINUES TO MAKE OUR STATE A BETTER STATE?

?If you display Christian "rules, you should display the "rules" of ALL religions in Texas?.

In fact, why not ?d?isplay basic rules about human decency -- and leave off the rules about a Christian God and the sensationalistic rule about adultery. Children should not concern themselves with adultery!

The Ten Commandments could be rephrased as Basic Rules about being a Good Human:

1. Be kind.
2. Respect your parents.
3. Be honest.
4. Don't steal.
5. Don't kill.
6. Don't curse
7. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

This is simple, does not violate anyone's religious beliefs, and maintains the separation of church and state.

Lucy Frost, MS

Precinct 336 - Democratic Precinct Chair

Manchaca, TX

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" Displaying the 10 Commandments in public school classrooms -- without displaying core principles and commandments from other religions -- violates the US Constitution. Those who voted for "Parental Choice" in school funding reveal their hypocrisy if they then vote for this bill.

Cathryn Mellon

Self

Houston, TX

Why are we wasting time arguing over matters that have already been settled by case law? It is not "brief", "personal", or "private" (as the test currently settled by case law) when it is the legal duty of school officials to comply with permanent posting of an endorsed message required by a state entity. Students are clearly a captive audience who are easily swayed by authority figures. And someone please let me know how teachers are going to be instructed to deal with questions to define adultery and maidservants without delving into religion and sexuality? Use your commonsense people – there are more appropriate and effective ways to teach kids about ethics and morals. Please direct the money that would be used for these postings towards teacher salaries instead.

Thomas Nobis
self - retired
Houston, TX

I am FOR SB10 by Sen. King. The Ten Commandments is a moral code that has been around for centuries. It is written into our laws.

Thou Shall not Kill - we call it murder. Thou shall not steal - we call it a crime - a misdemeanor or a felony. Thou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor - we call it lying and it is criminal if done in court. Honor your father and your mother - Parents have the right to raise their children and this teaches respect. Bringing the Ten Commandments into the classroom would act to reinforce a moral code that we live by and introduce the concept when it is needed. Perhaps with this, the discipline issue that we have seen in schools will decline and teachers will be respected by the students. Please pass SB24 out of Committee to Calendars.

Amy McElhaney
Self
Katy, TX

No way! Forcing Christianity to be displayed in public schools is unacceptable. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE!

Graham Nessler, Dr.
Self - Software Engineer
SAN ANTONIO, TX

On Tuesday, April 29, the so-called “10 Commandments Bill” will be heard by state lawmakers in Austin. This bill would require the prominent display of the Ten Commandments in every Texas public school classroom. This bill violates the religious liberty of non-Christian and religiously unaffiliated Texan families via the state explicitly endorsing one faith over others.

Defenders of bills like this often invoke “history and tradition” as a justification for requiring the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. But there are millions of Texans who come from different religious or philosophical traditions. We should remember that the “history and tradition” of Texas did not include a single Christian for thousands of years and that today many Texans are Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, or secular, among other non-Judeo-Christian belief systems.

It’s ironic that many of the legislators who champion bills like this claim to fiercely support parental rights over their children’s education. Well, what about the right of Muslim or Hindu parents to insist that an alien religion not be forced upon their children at school? Imagine how Christian parents would feel if their child’s public school were required to display excerpts from the Quran or the Hindu Vedas in classrooms.

Most religions, Christianity included, teach empathy towards other people’s perspectives. Let’s emulate these examples and reject this bill.

Catherine Viens
self
College Station, TX

There is a clear history of Biblical teachings in the education of our children from the Hornbook in 1632 (which taught the alphabet, vowels, syllables and an acknowledgment of the Christian Trinity and the Lord's Prayer) to the Bible printed by the first Congress for the purpose of Public Education (of boys AND girls). Since removing prayer and The Ten Commandments in public schools the moral and educational decay of our children is apparent to all. There is historical and traditional evidence of Public Education including this material and therefore I support SB 10 which will return the Ten Commandments to schools as they were for the previous 200 years.

Julie Sanford, Ms.
Self, retired teacher
Austin, TX

SB 10 threatens the constitutional principle of church-state separation! It also would discriminate against many children of a variety of backgrounds and faiths. Such legislation endangers religious liberty by favoring one faith tradition over others. We must act now to ensure our schools remain spaces where all students, regardless of their faith or belief system, feel respected and represented. This violates religious freedom and the separation of church and state. Please oppose this bill.

Karen Kendall
Self
Dallas, TX

As an active member of First United Methodist Church of Dallas, I am offended that we would even consider this stupid bill. As a Christian I see this as the total opposite of what Jesus would want us to do. If we cannot demonstrate our Christian beliefs to love God, love others and care for the poor, the tired and the marginalized people around us, then we have no business posting these because we clearly don't believe them.

This country has elected an adulter. That is Commandment #7. And don't let me get started on Commandment #1 and how the far right Republican Party has actually built and worshipped a golden idol at their meetings. Hypocrites! Sheesh...leave the Ten Commandments in the Christian Church where they belong and let teachers get on with their teaching.

Richard Rodine
Self - Retired
Dallas, TX

I am a Christian and an active member of First United Methodist Church Dallas, Texas. I am opposed to SB 10. Those of us in Christian Churches have plenty of opportunities at home and at church to teach the Ten Commandments. However, it is highly inappropriate for the Ten Commandments to be displayed in Public School classrooms. We have Separation of Church and State in this country and we need to protect that very important principle that guards and protects religious freedom.

Cindy Fountain
TX Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry/Member
Cleburne, TX

I Oppose this bill. I am a person of faith and believe that all people's faiths matter. Moreover, this bill puts religion into the classroom, where religious teachings do not belong. This legislation endangers religious liberty by favoring one faith tradition over others. We must act now to ensure our schools remain spaces where all students, regardless of their faith or belief system, feel respected and represented. This violates religious freedom and the separation of church and state.

Thank you,
Cindy Fountain
Cleburne, Tx

Sharon Spratt
St. Paul UMC
Rowlett, TX

As a Christian, I oppose SB 10 and strongly believe a state mandate that requires a specific religious doctrine to be posted in Texas public school classrooms is a violation of our country's democratic principles of the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. Religious doctrines and beliefs, such as the 10 Commandments, belong in religious settings where they are part of that specific religious tradition.

Raschel Harbison, Ms

Self

Kyle, TX

I am writing as a concerned Texan and a committed Christian to express my opposition to SB 10, which would require the display of the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom.

As someone whose faith is central to my life, I deeply value the teachings of the Ten Commandments. However, I also believe that the separation of church and state is a foundational principle that protects both religious freedom and the integrity of our public institutions. Mandating the display of a religious text in public schools risks undermining this important constitutional safeguard.

Our public schools serve students and families from a wide variety of religious backgrounds. Requiring the Ten Commandments to be posted in every classroom sends a message of religious preference, which can make non-Christian students feel excluded or marginalized. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors and respect the dignity of all people, including those of different faiths or no faith at all.

Moreover, the First Amendment's Establishment Clause was designed to prevent government endorsement of any particular religion. By legislating religious displays in public schools, SB 10 invites legal challenges and distracts from the pressing educational needs of our students and teachers.

Faith is most powerful when it is freely chosen, not mandated by the government. I urge you to oppose SB 10 and instead support policies that respect the religious diversity of our state while upholding the constitutional principle of church-state separation.

Thank you for your service and attention to this important issue.

dianne boone

Self

Dallas, TX

As a committed Christian, retired Texas educator, wife of a retired minister, and mother of a minister, I strongly oppose displaying the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

Nancy Marchant

Self retired

Fort Worth, TX

As a committed Christian, and ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church, I feel strongly that the separation of church and state requires that no religious materials be required for public display in classrooms. Learning about a variety of religions can be useful cultural education, but showing preference to one religion is inappropriate and a step in the wrong direction.

Leah Stephanow
self, retired educator
Cypress, TX

I watched the debate on SB 10 on the Senate floor and heard Senator King repeatedly refer to the Kennedy v Bremerton case. In that Supreme Court opinion, the Court ruled that Coach Kennedy was acting in a private citizen capacity, not as a school employee, and he was acting not on school time/duty. This bill requires the 10 Commandments to be posted in every public school classroom in a "conspicuous" place. That is not "brief, quiet, personal, and private" as the Supreme Court said was the capacity in which Coach Kennedy was acting. Having the 10 Commandments posted in every classroom would require students in a captive audience situation to be able to clearly see them. That is posting during school time, not on free time outside of a teacher or school's official duty time, and not outside of student's instructional time. In the Kennedy case, they ruled that there was no coerced student involvement. Having the 10 Commandments posted, would involve student coercion, as if a student asks the teacher a question about any of the commandments, the class would have to hear the teacher's answer. Some teachers could use that opportunity to proselytize to students. The Kennedy case, although stated that the Lemon Test was not a valid test for the Establishment Clause, did not overturn any case that had used the Lemon Test, such as Stone v. Graham (1980), where the Supreme Court ruled that posting of the 10 Commandments in public schools violates the Establishment Clause. I taught in a public school for over 30 years and can tell you that there are students of multiple religious beliefs and non-belief. To force students to see the 10 Commandments posted in every single classroom, every single year of their school attendance is forcing religious beliefs on students without their consent, or their parents' consent. And what if a teacher has a personal religious belief or non-belief and posting of the 10 Commandments in his/her classroom would violate his/her closely held beliefs and religious exercise/liberty? This bill forces a teacher to post it in his/her classroom where they will have to see it all day long, every day. If you are concerned about retaining teachers, you would be looking for ways not to offend and drive away teachers. If you are concerned about parental rights, then you have to agree that parents are the ones that should be guiding their child(ren)'s religious upbringing, not the school/state. If you are personally wanting to bring students to Christ, it is not the state's position to do so, and forcing religion on someone will more likely push them away. Since it is now clear that our state will have ESA's available to everyone, parents that want their children to have exposure to the 10 Commandments and other religious teachings have the choice, and now the ability, to send their child(ren) to a parochial school. I urge you to respect the religious exercise rights of all Texans by voting no on SB 10.

Reed Bilz, Ms
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I urge you to vote NO on SB 10, the bill that would mandate one religion to be represented in every public school classroom.

I am the mother of six kids who graduated from Texas public schools. I did not impose my non-theism on them, and I would not have wanted their school to impose Christianity on them. I gave them the right to choose and feel strongly that every parent should do the same.

Please vote NO on SB 10 and protect the constitutional right to freedom from religion in Texas.

Danielle Bobe
Self
Keller, TX

I am not in favor of this bill. Public school should be non-religious other than if a class on the history of religion is offered. All children should be able to go to public school without the advertising of one representation of religion.

Lauren Dowdy

--None--

Dallas, TX

As a Christian, I oppose SB 10 and strongly believe a state mandate that requires a specific religious doctrine to be posted in Texas public school classrooms is a violation of our country's democratic principles of the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. Religious doctrines and beliefs, such as the 10 Commandments, belong in religious settings where they are part of that specific religious tradition.

Sharon Rodine

Self - Retired

Dallas, TX

As a Christian, I oppose SB 10 and strongly believe a state mandate that requires a specific religious doctrine to be posted in Texas public school classrooms is a violation of our country's democratic principles of the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. Religious doctrines and beliefs, such as the 10 Commandments, belong in religious settings where they are part of that specific religious tradition.

Linda Schayot

Self

Richardson, TX

As a Christian, I oppose SB 10 and strongly believe a state mandate that requires a specific religious doctrine to be posted in Texas public school classrooms is a violation of our country's democratic principles of the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. Religious doctrines and beliefs, such as the 10 Commandments, belong in religious settings where they are part of that specific religious tradition."

Patricia Sumrow

Self

Frisco, TX

A person's religion is deeply personal. We should not force it onto our students by displaying the Ten Commandments in our classrooms. That space should be used for things like student artwork, helpful tips about subject the students are learning, or even just a blank wall. I do not want my child's teacher giving his/her interpretation of the Ten Commandments to my child should someone ask about them. I want my child's teacher to focus on math, reading, science, writing and critical thinking, a skill many in this legislature lack. Not every student practices Christianity and not every student is religious. This is overreach. We do not live in a Christian theocracy so please stop acting like we do. Leave the religion for the churches and, with the little time this legislature has left, then your focus to actual issues impacting our communities. This isn't it.

Julie Oliver

Self Retired

Dallas, TX

I adamantly oppose this bill due to separation of church and state.

MICHELLE EVANS

SELF

ROUND ROCK, TX

SUPPORT

Amanda Rios-Place
Harris County Public Library
Spring, TX

I am a parent and librarian in Spring, TX. I am testify on the Ten Commandments bill because this is a bill that is about control, not religious freedom. It is the opposite of religious freedom, in fact. Placing the Ten Commandments in every single classroom is ana act that favors one religious tradition over all others. That is not an example of religious freedom. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments. Students who wear hijab, or patka, or tichel, or tilaka/bindhi should not be subjected to the Ten Commandments in each and every classroom they enter day after day. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.
I urge you to vote NO on SB 10.
Thank you for your time and service.

Ashley Armstead
Self
Dallas, TX

The display of the Ten Commandments is good for Texas and Texans to honor our God given identity.

Jessica Cain, The Rev.
Texas Impact
San Marcos, TX

As a person of faith and specifically a pastor, the Ten Commandments are a guiding force in my life. I recognize the ways that they are reflected in our secular laws, but also the ways in which they are extremely specific to people of faith.

The eighth commandment says, “you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” Martin Luther says, “Therefore this commandment is given first of all that every one shall help his neighbor to secure his rights, and not allow them to be hindered or twisted, but shall promote and strictly maintain them...” Some have said “these were written in stone,” but we have them on paper in Hebrew in two places and they are different. Different traditions number them in various ways. Even if I believed placing the Commandments in classrooms was important, the mere act of choosing a translation and numbering system would exclude various Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

In Matthew 6, Jesus says, “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.”

School is a place of learning, but not a place for teaching one faith; that is properly the work of churches and parents at home. Children and adults in schools are more than welcome to read and study the 10 Commandments at school, in games, at meet me at the pole events. They should not be required to do so. This is especially important given the challenging topics contained within, like murder and adultery. If we are concerned about our children's exposure to such issues in library books and classroom materials, why would we post them on the walls? With my middle school confirmation students, I spend several hours studying the 10 Commandments over the course of weeks; they cannot be absorbed properly through a poster in a classroom.

It is our duty as Christians to serve, care for, and secure the rights of our neighbors—especially those who would be harmed by having the religion of others imposed upon them in public education. These bills go against both the principles of our government—which John Adams in the Treaty of Tripoli declared was “not in any sense founded on the Christian Religion”—and the principles of our faith and should not be passed out of committee.

Sarah Bentley, Rev.
Self/clergy
AUSTIN, TX

Public schools should continue to be welcoming of all faiths. Posting the Ten Commandments publicly is not about "freedom, but about control, trying to influence impressionable children and youth. I attended public through my early years and no attempt was ever made to impose this religious symbolism. Please vote against this bill!

Wendy Erisman, Dr
self--retired
Austin, TX

I am opposed to requiring public schools to display the Ten Commandments. The United States is not a Christian nation, and freedom of religion is central to our nation's history. That freedom includes all religions, not just Christianity. Posting the Ten Commandments would privilege Christianity over other, equally valid, religions, which is unacceptable in the public sphere.

Laura Trudeau
Self. Retired
Dallas, TX

Besides being unconstitutional, why would we put words from the Jewish scriptures in classrooms? There is no point in teaching children not to covet their neighbors' wife or their neighbor's ass. It is possible to teach children about kindness and good manners without invoking religious text. Every child in the class might come from a different faith tradition and it is wrong to post Jewish scripture.

Nina Brodsky
self
Austin, TX

Vote NO on SB 10. This bill does represent religious freedom it represents religious indoctrinization. Public schools need to respect families of all religious beliefs and not pressure student into conforming or assimilating. Families not the government should decide what if any religion they want to teach their children. WE ARE NOT THE TALIBAN!!!!

Caitlyn Besser
Self-Viridian Elementary
Arlington, TX

I strongly urge our senators to vote no on this bill. I do not believe the promotion of Christianity within a school building or government building is appropriate. Our constitution was written with a clear delineation between the church and the state in order to protect all its citizens and make good on our founding fathers right to religious freedom. Our neighborhood school is one of the most diverse schools in the state and has maintained an A rating year over year. We have over 30 languages spoken at our school. At least half of our student population does not practice Christianity. These beautiful, diverse children contribute so much to our school, not just with their hard work in the classroom but in the ways they share their cultures with our community as well. They deserve to feel equally welcome and represented in our school and I do not believe evangelizing them during school hours is helpful for their overall education or remotely appropriate in any way. I urge this body to vote no on this bill as it is inherently unequal and a needless waste of tax payer resources.

Sarah Berel-Harrop
self/seminarian
Farmers Branch, TX

Please reject this harmful, divisive bill. Posting religious texts from a particular sect sends a message to kids that are not part of this sect: your religion is wrong ... you don't belong ... you should change your religion. It provides a permission structure to those kids who are part of that sect - many of whom ALREADY subtly harass and demean those who are not members of their sect - to up their game. What do I mean by harassing and demeaning? Here's one example from a friend and Jewish parent - a peer sent him a note that he prayed for his Jewish peer's conversion every day because they are so sad that their peer would spend eternity in hell.

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Schools should not be undermining or stepping into that work. Besides that, our public schools have enough challenge trying to make ends meet with chronic underfunding that the Texas Legislature has chosen. It's offensive that the Texas Legislature would hand schools on one hand budget deficits and on the other hand micromanagement that adds discrimination to the school milieu.

Please do not advance this bill from committee.

Dianna Sayles
Self
Round Rock, TX

The fact that you are even wasting time on this is ridiculous. School is not for religion. It should be for learning the constitution though, which would in turn, might prevent people from wasting taxpayer time and dollars on things like this.

Melissa Zawrotny
self - Notary Public
Cedar Park, TX

The Founding Persons of these United States of America were very clear with regard to the separation of Church and State. There are 10 billion individual religions on this Earth. Many fall under 7 similar organized religions. If the 10 commandments are legally displayed in public school classrooms, we MUST include religious texts of conduct from ALL major religions: Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, and Confucianism, as well as honoring those of the indigenous peoples whose property we seized illegally and whose cultures we have attempted to erase. CHRISTIAN WAY IS NOT THE ONLY WAY!!!!

Jennifer Culver
Self
Arlington, TX

I am writing to request this be reconsidered. As a former K12 teacher and mother, I know how hard it is for students to sit in a classroom faced with images of a religion that is not theirs. This makes them feel as if they do not belong, and that is not conducive to a safe learning environment for all. I believe in the separation of church and state and that the founders wanted this for a reason. Students can carry a copy if they wish, but putting it in classrooms takes away that separation and can lead to bullying. I've seen that firsthand. Please do not make school even harder than it is for children today.

Ginny Fredricks, Ms.
Self retired
Austin, TX

I urge you to vote against SB10. Separation of church and state is a basic principle of our country. This bill clearly demonstrates a bias toward Christianity and would make others feel they don't belong,

Kim Schlossberg
self - business owner
Dallas, TX

This Bill is unconstitutional, and it violates the separation of church and state. Our public schools serve children of any and all faiths, and with no stated faith. Posting one religion's holy writings to the exclusion of others sets up an exclusionary environment that is not conducive to learning.

Brianna Saenz
Self
Austin, TX

Separation of Church and State must remain in tact if we are to have a powerful country. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education. Stop fooling around and stop messing with these kids.

Kathleen Young
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I oppose state forcing ten commandments in all classrooms. I have two children in texas public high schools. This is a clear breech of separation of church and state. When government officials—not parents—attempt to impose specific religious views in our public schools, this violates the religious freedom of Texas families. Texas families deserve the right to guide the religious instruction of our children!

I oppose this bill as it will force a specific religion onto all kids and teachers and is harmful to all children. For christian children, it creates a sense of entitlement and superiority, which is very dangerous in this climate of christian nationalist violence. For non-christians it creates the illusion that their religion is less than since their religion is not being displayed. The last i checked, the separation of church and state is the foundation of our country. Christianity is the main source of violence in America. We don't want our kids fearing even more violence than they already do in school. Thank you. katie Young

Elizabeth Alam
Self
Arlington, TX

I absolutely oppose this bill and firmly believe in the separation of church and state. If you display the 10 commandments then you must amend the bill to add doctrines of ALL religions and faiths represented in the united States. Stop this discriminatory practice and indoctrination of our kids in public spaces. Schools should be a safe space and the texas government has put their alliances with the NRA over the safety of our children.

Rev. Joanna Crawford
Live Oak UU Church
Cedar Park, TX

Religion is a matter for the family and church, not for the State. As a minister, I object to displaying faith statements and materials in public school classrooms. (Teachers and administrators are not trained to help students with their questions about faith-based materials - that is a subject matter for congregations, clergy, and religious educators.) Please vote NO on SB 10.

Paul Breaux
Self
Leander, TX

Please vote NO on sb 10
School vouchers are a bad idea for many reasons

Elizabeth Michaels
Self
Austin, TX

The United States was founded on religious freedom. Requiring a display of religious fundamentals such as the ten commandments violates this at public schools that are funded by the people.

Jill C.
Self
Austin, TX

Opposed to SB 10

Zhyyon Ogola
Self
Dallas, TX

The display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms goes directly against the first amendment right that governments are not to make moves or laws upholding one religion over the other. Besides being completely unconstitutional, to make the law constitutional, the core values of every major religion must simultaneously be displayed along with the Ten Commandments, and that is not economically feasible nor practically applicable. There is no reason for this law to be instituted except to push a religious autocratic/theocratic regime, which our country and constitution stand directly against. Support of this bill is a foundational support directly against the ideals of a country you've sworn to protect, and therefore this bill must NOT be passed.

Celia Zamadics
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Please vote "NO". Keep religion out of our schools.

Solange Hommel
Self
Killeen, TX

This bill is a clear violation of the 1st Amendment and will be deemed unconstitutional in the courts. It is a waste of time and resources. Vote NO to mandating one religion in public schools.

Rebecca Allen
Immune Boosters
LOCKHART, TX

Vote no fo this bill. It is against the separation of church and state.

James Bourque
Self - Teacher
Cedar Park, TX

I ask you to oppose the SB 10. Although I encourage Texas to support the education of religion, including all major religions, and that this education emphasize the similarities and differences, if any of these religions, I do not support displaying religion within the school system. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms, etc will not support morality in our students or society. The Ten Commandments, as well as Christianity, were publically supported within public schools during our segregated system and there was nothing these displays taught our students. Instead, Segregated South, which Texas belongs, encouraged segregation in God's name and it did not teach students to oppose segregation. The type of social morality SB10 promotes is the dogma of established religion, regardless of faith, and represents a type of social morality that our Nation rejected, which is represented in our First Amendment and the evolution of applying this Amendment to the States. Displaying the Ten Commandments in our present age will encourage segregation, just as School Vouchers will. By choosing which religion we publically support, we are not teaching good will to all, but why we can judge others guilty. Thank you

Robert Vann
Self-Retired
Fort Worth, TX

This is, of course, a blatant violation of the separation of church and state, and similar attempts have been stopped in the past by SCOTUS. This bill will lead to another wasted expenditure of my tax dollars to fight the law suits to which it will certainly lead. I assume that the Texas Christian Nationalists behind this bill are hoping that the current reactionary SCOTUS will, once again, ignore precedent. I must oppose this bill, even though it might provide some good teaching points as to those, like Trump or Paxton, who are in violation of multiple commandments and still being elected to positions of power and responsibility. Vote NO!

Bethann Eccles
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to SB 10.

Rachel Zindler
self
AUSTIN, TX

Please remain consistent with parental choice and vote NO on SB 10! As a Jewish parent who believes in the Ten Commandments I also firmly believe that public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Please give parents control of their children's religious education! Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education..

Susanne Mason
Self - Professional Researcher
Austin, TX

Dear Representatives and Public Education Committee Members:

I oppose SB10. I grew up in the United States of America where the separation of church and state means that we do not allow religion to color or control our shared government. We are a country, and a state whose people hold many religious beliefs, traditions and practices. The 10 Commandments from the Hebrew or Christian Bible have no place in a public school setting, except in courses about religion, philosophy, history and culture. They should not be displayed on the walls of our public schools. I extend this also to voucher-supported private schools. The 10 Commandments have no lawful place in those schools, as they are supported by public funds. Please protect the separation of Church and State, and the fundamental Constitutional precept of “we the people...”

Vote no on SB10.

Sincerely,
Susanne Mason

Jill vanVoorhis
self
Austin, TX

I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Public education should be a safe space for ALL students of ALL religion, or no religion at all. Not only does this go against everything our country was founded on, this goes against the Republican belief of "parental control." This is state indoctrination! If that doesn't matter to you, Texas is driving away business leaders, bright young minds and families who do not want to live in a state that controls what religion our children learn. This hurts business. As a member of the tech entrepreneur community I am seeing it first hand. Surely at least that matters to you?

Stephanie Womack
Self
Dallas, TX

Favoring one religious belief does not belong in public schools. Separation of church and state was created to prevent exactly this kind of thing, forcing all learners to adhere to one belief. This bill should fail simply because it is unconstitutional.

Eileen Wolfard
Self-retired
Lago Vista, TX

True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. We need religious freedom in our public schools.

Elizabeth Long
N/a
Austin, TX

Vote NO

James Browder
Self-Registered Nurse
Austin, TX

Legislative Committee Members (particularly those WHO PREVIOUSLY VOTED FOR "PARENTAL CHOICE"): Please BE CONSISTENT NOW AND VOTE NO ON SB 10. As a Texas native who attended public schools and received an excellent education, while recognizing how the separation of church and state was clearly reflected in my education, and whose three children also attended Texas schools, I believe strongly that our legal/governmental system should continue to reflect our core values. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education. I reiterate, please vote NO on the Ten Commandments Bill and protect true religious freedom in Texas public schools. Texas' incredible religious diversity, which only increases every day, makes it imperative that families—not government—should direct their children's religious education. This bill essentially disenfranchises non-Christian Texans—that is an EXTREMELY NEGATIVE AND HARMFUL STEP, that sews the seeds for blatant discrimination against non-Christians, and even persecution and ridicule of innocent non-Christian students throughout the State. Please consider the following important points as you determine how our State should protect ALL citizens, especially vulnerable children: 1) This bill is not about religious freedom but about control; 2) Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs; 3) True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference; 4) Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments; and 5) Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others.

Nicole Baratta
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I'M URGING THE MEMBERS WHO PREVIOUSLY VOTED FOR "PARENTAL CHOICE" TO BE CONSISTENT NOW AND VOTE NO ON SB 10. PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOULD RETAIN TRUE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Elizabeth Castano
Self - retired
Austin, TX

True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Families should oversee a child's religious education, not the government. If you voted for "parental choice", vote NO on SB10.

Mark Rockeymoore
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to this bill because it is redundant and not everyone in the state is a Christian. Government cannot impose religious structure upon its citizens. That is not its purpose.

AJ Juraska
Self, Seminarian
Austin, TX

I am a seminary student and I oppose SB10 because it is not biblically accurate. While the ten commandments are a part of the bible, they are cherry-picked, in that there are actually 613 commandments or mitzvot in the Bible. Most of these mitzvot cannot be followed for a variety of reasons, including that they require being in the temple which was destroyed. Additionally, not all students are Christian and those of us who are other religions, such as Unitarian Universalist, like myself, should not be forced to learn religious doctrine that is not our own. My religion believes firmly in the separation of church and state. There are many ways to teach students to live ethical lives, and it is not appropriate for religious doctrine to be put into public school classrooms.

Emily Adams
self
Dallas, TX

Advocating for religious freedom and separation of church and state! This bill violates those rights!

Sarah Rutherford, Ms.
Self (seminary student)
Austin, TX

I am a Christian and a seminarian in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and I STRONGLY oppose this bill. I believe that faith is only meaningful if chosen and enacted on a personal level, and loses its meaning if enforced upon others without their consent. Posting the 10 Commandments does not promote morality and only seeks to make other people feel uncomfortable and excluded. I object to the weaponization of my religion against schoolchildren as a matter of faith.

David Shontz
Self, retired
Spring, TX

Displaying religious texts in public schools that are open to all hardens the hearts of those who don't fully agree to begin with. People of faith are then exposed to that doubt. The Ten Commandments are sacred, and are being profaned by secular leaders who want to make use of them.

Jeanne Dupre' Weido
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill because the Separation of Church and State would be violated. A thought...if we are to display the Ten Commandments then we would have to allow that any religious doctrine to also be displayed. Once again this will violate the Separation of Church and State. Please do not make this bill into law!! Thank you.

Paula Maroney, Mrs.
Self, retired
Combine, TX

I am a lifelong Christian and I oppose requiring or allowing the display of the Ten Commandments in all public schools and classrooms. Our Constitution calls for separation of church and state and it must be upheld. Religious preferences are to be determined by family, not government. Please vote against this bill.

Michael Belsick
Fredericksburg Tea Party
Fredericksburg, TX

FOR SB 10. While I support the basic tenet of separation of church and state, society is starting to fall into decay. Maybe we need to be reminded of some common sense rules of conduct.

April Grimes
Self/Self
FORT WORTH, TX

Your duty is to uphold the Constitution and operate within its defined limits. Your electoral mandate does not include using public office to indoctrinate children with personal religious beliefs.

The Founding Fathers' stance against mixing religion and politics:

Thomas Jefferson, in his famous 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptists, established the "wall of separation" concept: "I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church & State." This was written to assure religious minorities that the government would not interfere with their practices.

James Madison, often called the Father of the Constitution, wrote: "The purpose of separation of church and state is to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe in blood for centuries." Madison understood how religious involvement in government had led to centuries of warfare in Europe.

John Adams signed the Treaty of Tripoli, which explicitly stated: "The Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion." This was unanimously ratified by the Senate in 1797.

Thomas Jefferson emphasized: "Christianity neither is, nor ever was a part of the common law." He wanted to ensure religious doctrine wouldn't influence legal decisions.

Benjamin Franklin noted: "When religion is good, I conceive it will support itself; and when it does not support itself, and God does not take care to support it so that its professors are obliged to call for help of the civil power, 'tis a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one."

Thomas Jefferson wrote in Notes on Virginia: "The rights of conscience we never submitted, we could not submit. We are answerable for them to our God. The legitimate powers of government extend to such acts only as are injurious to others. But it does me no injury for my neighbour to say there are twenty gods, or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg."

George Washington emphasized in a letter to the United Baptist Churches: "Every man, conducting himself as a good citizen, and being accountable to God alone for his religious opinions, ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience."

These quotes demonstrate that the Founding Fathers:

- Viewed separation of church and state as essential to prevent religious persecution
- Understood the historical dangers of mixing religion with government
- Believed religious freedom required keeping religion separate from state power
- Wanted to protect both government from religious control and religion from government interference
- Saw religious liberty as an individual right that shouldn't be imposed on others through law.

Please concentrate on securing additional funding for our schools.

Gail Bayron
Self/author and Texas citizen
Sachse, TX

SB 10 is not about religious freedom; it prioritizes one religion over all others. True religious freedom is about protecting the rights of all citizens to practice the faith of their choice—or none at all. Public spaces, including public schools, should remain neutral, showing respect to Texans' diverse religious beliefs. Parents, and the their chosen religions leaders, should direct their childrens' spiritual growth and education, not public schools or government mandates.

Melissa Prycer
self/nonprofit consultant
Dallas, TX

As a Christian and life-long Texan, I deeply oppose the requirement to display the Ten Commandments in public schools. Growing up in Mesquite ISD, I had the privilege to have friends that were Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist. Having these friendships enriched my life and shaped my life. I can't imagine how these friends would feel to have my religion on display everywhere, especially when our culture is already dominated by Christian principles. This law does nothing to support schools or Christianity--it is designed to make those that have different, equally valid beliefs, feel isolated from their community. This legislative session, you've done enough to mess with public schools. Vote against this and move on to things that will actually make Texas a better place to live.

Tracy Jolly
Self
Grapevine, TX

Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation.

Nicole Smith
My children in Texas schools
Fort Worth, TX

My children are not Christian, a lot of Texas children are not Christian. Stop trying to indoctrinate my children. This is absolutely absurd and a waste of time and tax dollars. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE EXIST FOR A REASON.

Diana Wallace
Self
Haslet, TX

Church and state should be separate. This should not pass for the freedom and safety of all students, regardless of religion. This a way to force and dismiss Texans of their freedom and true education of the school system. School should prioritize education not politics or religion.

Kim Manskey
Self
Southlake, TX

It is completely inappropriate to display the Ten Commandments in our public schools. As a former teacher, I am aware that public schools are responsible for educating ALL students. That means students of different backgrounds and religions. We should respect them and their families. We are not there to be spiritual advisors. That should be addressed at home. Government has no roll in teaching religious doctrine. As elected representatives, it is important that you start addressing real issues that Texans face and quit inserting your religious beliefs into our personal lives.

Jason Moss
Self
Haslet, TX

Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation.

Natasha Lee
Self/SAHM
Fort Worth, TX

Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation. Do not support this bill. This bill tramples on the people who don't have the same religious beliefs, and grossly crosses the line of separation of church and state. The misuse of your power is being noticed. Represent what your constituents want.

Dana Jones
Self
Bedford, TX

Choosing any singular religion is a direct act of diminishing diversity. The 10 commandments do not belong in public schools, nor does any religious literature. Displaying the Ten Commandments is the epitome of indoctrination. Please support religious freedom by voting no on SB 10.

Robyn Carafiol, Ms.
Self
Dallas, TX

As a Jewish person, I oppose SB 10 and strongly believe a state mandate that requires any specific religious doctrine to be posted in Texas public school classrooms is a violation of our country's democratic principles of the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. Religious doctrines and beliefs, such as the 10 Commandments, belong in religious settings where they are part of that specific religious tradition, and can be taught as directed by parents, and faith leaders.

Megan Moore
Self
Boerne, TX

Government should not be mandating specific religious ideology indoctrination in public education.

Carole Mabile
Self Retired R.N.
Plano, TX

Separation of church and state

Margaret Meyer
self
Grapevine, TX

As a practicing Christian, I value the 10 Commandments and teach them to the young ones in my care. However, each of the major world religions has a similar version. Displaying an agreed upon code of conduct is a great idea. Since we have students from all walks of life, why not choose modern language and incorporate general standards of decent behavior, i.e. Treat others as you would like to be treated, etc. Why show favoritism to one particular faith, possibly alienating students who practice another tradition? Why are we wasting valuable time on something so clearly unconstitutional?

Georgia Kimmel
Public Policy Chair AAUW TX
Houston, TX

AAUW opposes the provisions in this bill. The government should not mandate the display of scripture, in this case specific King James version of the Ten Commandments, in public schools. This action can be harmful to students from a wide variety of faith backgrounds and does not give parents choice as to what their child is exposed to in the classroom. This bill is may be unconstitutional as governments are to uphold the separation of church and state.

Heather Reck, Mrs
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am personally shocked that this violation of church and state persists in the ignorance of our Texas legislators. Can you imagine muslim buddhist or satanic texts shared and promoted across all classrooms and campuses? Because thats what you are opening us up to.
We are not a theocracy. America is a nation of people from all backgrounds, nations and religions traditions. This bill is unamerican, unhuman, and divisive in nature. Evil disguised as 'Christian'.

Cynthia Jacobson
self
Houston, TX

The 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees religious freedom, which also means freedom FROM religion where the government is concerned. Mandating that The 10 Commandments be displayed in PUBLIC schools that receive government funds is an infringement on the right to freedom from religion. Specifically, it is narrow-minded to negate that not all children in those schools come from Judeo-Christian backgrounds. Secondly, religion and religious practices have no place in the schools.

Katherine Langford
self, retired teacher
Hurst, TX

I wish to express my opposition to SB 10 as it relates to the display of the 10 Commandments in public school classrooms. I am a Christian, but I am also a retired public school teacher. In my classroom was a diverse population of students coming from many faiths and beliefs. Our constitution prohibits the emphasis of one particular religion in our public schools. This is true of the state constitution as well in that no tax payers' dollars should be spent on pushing a particular religion over another. However, this is not just against the law; it is against our moral compass. It is an affront to the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. And it is just cruel to our students. Please do not support this bill. Thank you.

Debra Levy
Self
Dallas, TX

The Ten Commandments given to Moses our teacher were not meant to conflict with one of the commandments itself, and that is the taking of God's name in vain. Many people believe that this commandment is about cursing - which can indeed offend our neighbors and God. The lived meaning of these words, if the prohibition against taking God's name in vain was to limit the use of faith or God's word for selfish or purely political reasons. As a moral code, our forefathers understood that humans are not expert as discernment of that God wants or needs us to do.

How do we explain adultery to a young child? Idolatry?

Is it not wrong to install these precepts in a school, blurring lines of church and state? And if it's thought that children need this instruction, why don't we trust the faith traditions of ALL parents to guide and teach, in this arena? "School choice" happens in public schools too, where closely beloved and cherished children of all faiths are free to gather in care and respect, in humility that parents and one's own faith can best interpret moral teachings and their meanings.

Jill Williams
self
Arlington, TX

The U.S. Constitution's Establishment Clause prohibits government endorsement of religion. Displaying the Ten Commandments-a religious text-in public schools can be interpreted as government endorsement of a particular religion, which violates this foundational principle

Public schools serve students from a wide range of religious and nonreligious backgrounds. The Ten Commandments are specific to Judeo-Christian traditions and may alienate or marginalize students of other faiths or those who are nonreligious

Public schools serve students from a wide range of religious and nonreligious backgrounds. The Ten Commandments are specific to Judeo-Christian traditions and may alienate or marginalize students of other faiths or those who are nonreligious

The inclusion of the Ten Commandments in public school curricula or displays does not enhance academic achievement or provide essential life skill

Jack Wallae
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms is unconstitutional according to long-standing Supreme Court precedent (*Stone v. Graham*, 1980), because it violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Children should learn about Christianity, or any religion, at home or church at the discretion of their parent(s).

Diane Olsen
Self
Galveston, TX

The constitution explicitly states there is a separation between church and state. Putting the 10 Commandments in classrooms violates this.

Karin Dunker
Self, swim instructor
Benbrook, TX

You took an oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation. Religion should be taught at home, not at school. The Ten Commandments should not be displayed in public schools.

Rosemarie Quick
Self, teacher
ROUND ROCK, TX

Honor your oath of office to uphold the Constitution and stay within the boundaries of your office. You are to represent all constituents regardless of religious persuasion. You are not to impose religious ideology to children in our public schools by way of legislation. This directly violates the Establishment clause of the Constitution. Vote NO on this.

Michelle Adler
self
Austin, TX

Texas politicians are forcing state-sponsored religion into our schools by trying to implement the Ten Commandments and prayer time in the classroom.
Our communities are religiously diverse, and we must ensure that children from all religious backgrounds or no religion feel safe and welcome at school.
How or whether we practice religion is up to us, not the government. Let's keep it that way. Separation of church and state is core to our country's beliefs and rights.

Cassandra Castillo
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

Completely unnecessary. Religion does not prepare children to be successful adults. Public schools need to remain places for ALL students. I urge you to honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on children through legislation.

Pam Sapp
self
Beach City, TX

You were elected to represent ALL your constituents, not to impose religious ideology on children through legislation. All your constituents are not Christians. If you display the commandments of the Christian religion, then you need to require the display of principals taught in all the various religions represented in Texas. All Texans are not Christians. This is blasphemy to all other religions and to true Christians who are supposed to love everyone.

Kelly Cornell
Self
Bedford, TX

I do not support having religious texts of only one faith shoved down school children's throats. I find this action unconstitutional. If you want to put up the 10 commandments, then also put up quotes from the Quran and the Flying Spaghetti Monster. My real suggestion? Do not support this bill.
Thank you for your time.

Martha Graham
Self
Plano, TX

I am a Christian, and I do NOT support this! Please listen to your constituents

V. Walker
Self, educator & small business owner
Cleburne, TX

Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation. Do not support this bill.

Cynthia Daniels
Self
Mansfield, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas Senate Bill 10, which mandates the display of the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom. This bill represents a significant overreach of government authority into the personal religious beliefs of students and families, undermining the foundational American principle of the separation of church and state. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees that no government body shall establish a religion. By requiring public schools to display a religious text central to specific faith traditions, SB 10 effectively endorses a particular religious viewpoint, infringing upon the religious freedoms of students from diverse backgrounds. This concern was previously addressed in the 1980 Supreme Court case *Stone v. Graham*, where the Court ruled that mandating the posting of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. ?

Proponents of SB 10 argue that the Ten Commandments serve as a moral foundation for our legal system. However, public education should provide a secular environment where students of all faiths, and none, feel equally respected and included. Mandating religious displays in classrooms can alienate non-Christian students and families, making them feel like outsiders in their own schools. As noted by critics, such measures blur the line between church and state and prioritize a specific religious agenda. ?

Furthermore, this legislative effort diverts attention from pressing issues facing our education system, such as underfunding, overcrowded classrooms, and teacher shortages. Lawmakers should focus on addressing these challenges rather than imposing religious mandates that may lead to costly legal battles and further division within our communities. ?

In conclusion, I urge legislators to uphold the constitutional separation of church and state by rejecting SB 10. Public schools should remain spaces where all students, regardless of their religious beliefs, can learn in an environment free from government-imposed religious doctrine.?

Kelly Thrasher
Self QMS Coordinator
Houston, TX

While I myself am a follower of the 10 Commandments, I feel that this is an overreach. Freedom of religion is a protected right for US citizens. I do not want my children to be subject to religious indoctrination while at public school. The voucher bill was passed, so people who want their children in religious based schools have that choice. Public schools should focus on reading, writing, math, science, and productive social interactions. Schools are not a substitute for parenting.

Additionally, there are many Texas representatives and elected leaders who themselves do not follow the 10 commandments. If religious rules are going to be dictated to my children through the public school system, I believe that every elected official should be able to provide proof that they follow the same rules, or be impeached.

Cat Skar
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a mother and teacher I feel this would be very exclusive and go against separation of church and state.

George-Anna McCabe, Retired Texas Educator
Self, Retired Educator
New Braunfels, TX

As a former educator in the public school system for 30 years I believe this is wrong and goes against the separation of church and state. "Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation."

Laura Wooten, Mrs.
Wooten Communications
Allen, TX

As a Christian and a pragmatic American, I oppose displaying the 10 Commandments in public schools - not because I disagree with their moral message, but because it's impractical, legally problematic, and ultimately counterproductive to both education and faith.

From a fiscal conservative standpoint, defending 10 Commandments displays in court wastes valuable taxpayer money. Schools consistently lose these legal battles, costing districts hundreds of thousands in legal fees - money better spent on textbooks, teacher salaries, or building maintenance. These funds come directly from our local taxes.

As a Christian parent, I want my children's faith to be genuine and personal, not mandated by government institutions. True Christian values are best taught at home and in church, where they can be properly contextualized with biblical teachings. Hanging the 10 Commandments in schools actually diminishes their spiritual significance by reducing them to mere decoration or political statements.

Our children's faith will be stronger when it's developed through family guidance and voluntary worship, not through government-mandated religious displays. As Christians, we should concentrate on living our values and sharing our faith personally, rather than seeking state endorsement of religious symbols.

Gena Sadler, Ms
Self
San Antonio, TX

Strongly oppose!!! America is full of folks from all sorts of religious and spiritual backgrounds, schools need to be a neutral ground where folks of all religions and spiritual beliefs can be together.

Rachel Lucas
Myself
Round rock, TX

I do not support this bill. This bill alienates any student, teacher, or other person that does not identify as Christian. There is separation of church and state for a reason. Also, our tax dollars should be going directly to teachers and not implementing something as arbitrary as this. Please start focusing on what actually matters instead of pushing Christian nationalism.

Deborah Chaney
self--retured educator
Bedford, TX

Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation. SB10 is NOT good for the people of Texas.

Marsha Edwards
self
Dallas, TX

1. Violation of the Separation of Church and State

The U.S. Constitution's First Amendment prohibits the government from establishing religion.

Public schools are government-run, so endorsing a specific religious text (like the Ten Commandments) could be seen as government endorsement of religion, which courts (including the Supreme Court, e.g., *Stone v. Graham* 1980) have ruled is unconstitutional.

2. Religious Pluralism and Inclusivity

The Ten Commandments are rooted in Judeo-Christian traditions.

Students in public schools come from many religious (or non-religious) backgrounds — Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists, etc.

Promoting one religious code over others could alienate or marginalize non-Christian students, creating a divisive or exclusionary environment.

3. Not All Ten Commandments Are Universally Agreed Upon

Different religious groups (Catholics, Protestants, Jews) even number and interpret the Ten Commandments differently. Choosing one version would favor one denomination over others, deepening concerns about fairness and bias.

4. Educational Mission vs. Religious Instruction

Public schools are meant to educate, not to proselytize.

Displaying religious commandments blurs the line between secular education and religious indoctrination.

5. Legal Precedent

In *Stone v. Graham* (1980), the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Kentucky law requiring the posting of the Ten Commandments in classrooms, saying it had no secular legislative purpose and was "plainly religious."

Courts have consistently ruled that similar actions violate the Establishment Clause.

6. Potential for Coercion

Even passive displays can put pressure on students (especially younger ones) to conform to religious ideas they may not hold.

There's concern about indirect coercion, where students feel compelled to go along with religious messaging to avoid being isolated or bullied.

7. Moral Education Doesn't Require Religious Texts

Schools can and do teach ethics, civic virtues, and moral reasoning without relying on religious documents.

Universal values like honesty, respect, and responsibility can be taught from a secular perspective that's accessible to everyone.

Julie Russell
Self
Arlington, TX

Keep Church and state separate. We do not need to indoctrinate children. Their prefrontal cortex is not completely developed. Which makes them susceptible from indoctrination whereas adults they may have decided to not believe in what was crammed down their throats when they were children. If you feel you need to hang up anything religious in public schools, and then your establishment needs to start taxing all churches.

Ronda Dexter
Self
Schertz, TX

I would like to remind you to honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent ALL constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation. This feels very much like child indoctrination which the Republican Party has been screaming about the democrats doing. Teachers should not be teaching from a Bible! That needs to be left for home and/or the church of your choosing!!

K Pardo
Patriot
Coppell, TX

Religion is something personal, where parents can elect what morals and values they want to teach their children as people practice religion in various a ways. Mandating this actually takes away a parent's religious right by forcing them to follow scripture in a way that is different than what is thought at home/church. Passing this is the first step to government mandated religion, which is very scary as our founders fled England because the government was controlling how they practiced.

Marji Raunikar
self
Aledo, TX

Vote NO on SB 10.

I am a Christian. I was raised in a Christian church, raised my child in a Christian church, am active in my Christian church, and volunteer in my community as thanks and praise to Jesus. The Ten Commandments are a list of moral teachings from Judeo-Christianity.

As a US Citizen, I oppose SB 10 because it violates the First Amendment to the US Constitution. The Supreme Court said that the wall of separation between church and state must be kept high and impregnable and "No tax in any amount...can be levied ... to teach or practice religion."

As a Christian, why do I so strongly oppose SB 10? Look at history - throughout the ages, when a country mandated the acceptance of a particular religion's tenets in its public institutions, there was a slippery slope to the persecution of anyone who questioned or disagreed with those tenets. And often that slippery slope led to prisons and death camps. The separation of church and state protects us all.

Vote NO on SB 10.

Kelley Franklin
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I believe in the separation of church and state and do not believe the 10 commandments should be displayed at a public school where there are children from various religions. Listen to your constituents. You already went against what Texans wanted when u approved the vouchers. We elected you to be our voice and you are all failing.

Taci Kistler
self, Allen ISD
McKinney, TX

Stop indoctrinating. Religion is fostered at home - not in public schools. Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation

Danelle Schwertner
Self, business owner, Texas public school parent
Miles, TX

This bill is unconstitutional. Not everyone is Christian, our nation is not a Christian one, and it is based on freedom to choose or not choose a religion. We don't need to be posting the Ten Commandments in classrooms - that's trying to indoctrinate kids whose families don't believe in Christianity. If you're going to do this, then we need to be posting the major tenets of EVERY religion in classrooms, and I sincerely doubt that is something everyone wants. Children need to be learning religious concepts in church, not in school.

Sarah Goshman
Self, school volunteer, mom
Weatherford, TX

Why is this even up for discussion? I don't want my kids learning about anything to do with Christianity in a taxpayer funded public school. If I wanted my kids to learn about the Ten Commandments I would take them to church; however I, as well as around a third of Texans, identify as non-Christian. I find it abhorrent that anyone would want to impose their beliefs on a captive audience of CHILDREN. Who is going to come explain adultery and murder to my kindergartener? This bill simply is a violation of the separation of church and state. The choice of exposing kids to religion should be left up to their parents, full stop. Please do not pass this bill.

Karen Trost
Self/editor
Keller, TX

Please respect your oath to represent ALL constituents and vote against this bill.

Sandra Colston
Self
Plano, TX

Please honor your pledge to the constitution and the wishes of your constituents, by not voting for SB 10. Our constitution promises freedom for ALL religions and also establishes separation of church and state. Put your personal beliefs aside and honor the varied beliefs of Texas citizens. Do the right thing!

Jorden Dossey
Self
Weatherford, TX

"Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation. Do not support this bill."

Casey Smith
Self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

This bill is a blatant violation of the First Amendment and would be isolating and exclusive of those not of the Christian faith. Public schools serve children of ALL faiths and should not impose any religious ideology on the students whatsoever. Our public servants were elected to represent all their constituents, not just the Christian ones. I deeply oppose this bill.

Rhonda Sanders
Self/Massage Therapist
Manor, TX

Honor your oath to serve the Constitution and respect the boundaries of your office. You were elected to represent all constituents, not to impose religious ideology on our children through legislation. Not only are we a diverse country, but an extremely diverse state. Let us honor all the different religious beliefs as our forefathers intended.

DIANNE REECE
self / consultant
HOUSTON, TX

The required posting of the Ten Commandments in public school rooms ultimately weakens the state and church. It weakens the state because it posts rules and laws it cannot and has no intention of enforcing. It becomes a sign of impotence, if not complete incompetence. Why should anyone take the government seriously if the documents placed in every school serve as moral or legal guides and hold nobody accountable for violating most of them? It does nothing to increase the goodness of the Gospel or the quality of a well-governed state.

Posting the Ten Commandments in public spaces does the exact opposite of their intended purpose, namely, creating freedom for others. The community of Israel was held accountable for obedience and faithfulness to these commands. Their obedience made for a safer society for those under their protection, namely the most vulnerable poor, slaves, widows, sick, and downcast, by holding to account those with power. The public posting of the Ten Commandments does nothing to provide the protection and safety of such persons in our society. Particularly when such laws are passed by a powerful legislative body actively working to create less safety for such persons within its state borders. Our responsibility as citizens is to hold them accountable for such behaviors through our civic engagements, including but not limited to the ballot box.

Posting the Ten Commandments also fails to offer any evangelistic or redemptive purpose. Reciting or memorizing the Ten Commandments does not draw people closer to the redeeming work of Jesus's resurrection when absent from the larger narrative of God's engagement with the world. If anything, compulsory posting of such commandments will further conflate state power and religious instruction, potentially pushing people further away from meaningful interaction with both.

Codifying the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools is a show of perceived supremacy that is completely at odds with the welcoming love in the power ethics of Jesus Christ. Instead of the followers of God writing the scriptures on their hearts, the state is inserting itself as a poor substitute by writing on the walls. Lording power, in this way, puts the power of God in the domain of the state. Instead of God being out in the world he created, the state says if you want God, you have to get in the box. This is the very definition of using God's name in vain by seeking to use his words to further the dominance of those in power.

This only makes the work of the church more difficult because it closes the hearts and minds of those who might respond to God's open invitation. The state should not be in the business of such invitations because they will serve as a filter that reduces the power of the Gospel and distracts the state from its responsibility of dealing with civic matters.

I urge you oppose this legislation.

Sarah Resnick-Attia

Self; stay at home parent

Houston, TX

Displaying the Ten Commandments in public schools contravenes the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment requires that there is no establishment of a state religion. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. . ." Displaying the Ten Commandments in public schools is state sponsored religion. All students are free to practice their own religion outside of school and/or choose to go to a private, religious school. Please respect the Constitution by keeping a clear boundary between the State and religion. The United States is not a theocracy.

Kelly Clyne

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Do your job and uphold the constitution. Separation of church and state ensures all Americans receive an unbiased education. Worship your god at your church and leave the schools out of it.

Samantha Borek

SELF

Cedar Park, TX

Not only is this a blatant violation of the constitution, it's a vast overreach of a state government that claims to be about allowing it's citizens to choose for itself what their children should be taught. This bill shows favoritism to the Christian faiths, and places Christianity above other faiths or lack thereof. It would violate the religious freedom of practitioners of non-Christian faiths. If the ten commandments are to be displayed in public school classrooms, then I contend that there should also be passages from the Quran, the Bhagavadgita, the Torah, and any other religious texts that apply to students in that classroom. In addition suitable accommodations must be made for students who have not been raised in organized religion. This bill has been poorly thought out and has been put forward in poor faith as an imposition of one group's values over all others.

Elke Baitis

self

Austin, TX

I am completely opposed to displaying the 10 Commandments in public classrooms. Support separation of church and state! Oppose the dominance of Christianity over other world religions. Teachers already are teaching honesty, kindness and sharing, and that is good.

Laura Sparrow, Dr.

Self

Georgetown, TX

I strongly disagree with the proposal to display the 10 Commandments in public schools. To do so would be an egregious overreach of the state government and will cause undue hardship for students of minority religions. Furthermore, this bill does nothing to address the real needs that students and teachers in our public school system face. They need resources, community support, and the full faith of the state legislature, not virtue signaling bills.

Carrie Ives
Self
Richardson, TX

We can't fully fund schools but we can put additional mandates to force religious indoctrination into our classrooms? I object to this. Our country was founded in separation of religion and the state.
I also object because this will force teachers to have to explain concepts like adultery when the kids ask what the word is. Kids do not need to have "no other god before me" to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic.
This will take up valuable display space that teachers could be using for the lessons they are covering.
It is highly likely that this will result in lawsuits that the state ends up spending money on. It would be a better use of tax payer dollars to kill this bill rather than having to fight it in court.
When you start forcing one religion into schools, other religions will have grounds to demand they get equal billing. What from the Quran, The Book of Mormon, and the Bhagavad Gita are you willing to also post? If the answer is none, then you are pushing your religion.

M Kopriva
Self
Cleburne, TX

Opposed to religious indoctrination in schools. Why would a kindergarten student in Texas need a posted commandment against adultery in their classroom? Religion does not belong in public schools. Period.

Marsha West
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a Christian, and an elder in Ridglea Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, I oppose SB 10. A state mandate that requires a specific religious doctrine to be posted in Texas public school classrooms is a violation of our constitution's separation of church and state doctrine. Our country was founded on the principles of that separation. Our founding fathers saw up close and personal what can happen when the government and a religion are linked. Religious doctrines and beliefs, such as the 10 Commandments, belong in religious settings where they are part of that specific religious tradition. As a retired elementary school principal, I object because, our teachers shouldn't have to get caught up in this controversy. What if the teacher is Muslim, or or no faith. They should not be expected to teach these commandments. Thank you for your consideration. Please cast a vote against SB 10.

Liz Stevens
self
Fort Worth, TX

This nation was founded on the principle of freedom of religion. Placing Judeo-Christian symbols in every single classroom violates the Constitution of the United States. To force your religion down the throats of others is completely anathema to the beliefs of the founders, and a statement to non-Christians and religious Jews that they are unwelcome. It's a vile proposal and a slippery slope towards Christian Nationalism. We know what that that is the real end game is for Sen. King and his ilk.

Calista Herbert
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. The Ten Commandments are definitely good commandments to follow but they are religious laws and don't belong in public schools. Vote against this bill.

Mary Harris, Ms.
Texas Impact
Denton, TX

My ancestors immigrated to New England before the American Revolution, in which some of them fought. Freedom of religion was a major factor in their decisions to leave Britain, whose national religion was instituted by King Henry VIII, when the Pope refused to annul a marriage that failed to produce a male heir. The Anglican church he founded was not accepted by my ancestor colonists, who welcomed the United States Constitutional establishment of no state religion and provision for separation of church and state. I ask the Texas House to vote "no" on SB10, which requires posting the 10 Commandments in King James-like English in every public-school classroom. This bill violates the right of parents to raise their child in the religion of their choice. Let parents who want parochial education for their children find it in private or charter schools while public schools continue to welcome children of all religions as they learn to be good neighbors to all.

Cathy Sweeney
Self
Richardson, TX

I oppose the requirement to display of 'the' Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. Not all children/students are people of faith; not all are Christian or Jewish. Further, there are various versions/translations of the Ten Commandments, even within the same translation of the Hebrew Bible. Finally, I oppose because not all teachers are either 1) well versed in answering questions about the Ten Commandments, and/or 2) are not persons of a faith tradition in which their religious texts contain a version of the Ten Commandments. Keep religion out of public schools and vote "no" on SB10 in the House committee on Public Education.

Lori Payne Benker, Mrs.
Self, Licensed Professional Counselor
Wylie, TX

My name is Lori Payne Benker and I am opposed to SB 10, as it clearly violates the separation of church and state statute. In addition, this type of display could confuse young children who are not part of the Christian religion who may have other spiritual beliefs. Public schools should be free of religious influence.

Barry Halpern
Self, college teacher
Houston, TX

We need to keep religion out of the public schools. If we were to post the Ten Commandments whose version, would we select. Different religious traditions have different versions.

Marilyn Jones, Rev.
Self
Stephenville, TX

Hello. I am writing to oppose SB 10. SB 10 is not about religious freedom but about control. As a Christian pastor, I strive to follow the 10 commandments in my everyday life. However, I feel that there better recommendations for things we could include on display that fit the religion of all the citizens of Texas. How about the Golden Rule? Or loving others? Our public schools should remain safe places for all Texas children and their diverse religious beliefs. Homes are where our religious instruction begins. It is not the job of our public schools to take on the daunting task of the faith development of our children. Are our teachers ready to talk to 6 year olds about what adultery is? Are they prepared to address the concern of the children who do not have mothers and/or fathers to honor? What does honoring your father and mother even mean? It makes no sense to add this to our overworked teachers. Furthermore, if we are to maintain true religious freedom, then we cannot impose our belief structure on others. We honor the unique expressions of faith around our great state. It is unfair and unjust to our Texas families. I hope that SB 10 will not pass.

Alysa Aelvoet
Myself
Keller, TX

I oppose. It is not a teachers job to teach the Ten Commandments. This should be done at church and in the home. The words “thou shall not commit adultery” should never be posted in any class K-12. Leave religion out of public schools.

Jennifer Norman
Self Engineer
Irving, TX

I am commenting on behalf of my opposition on SB 10, which mandates the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. The separation of church and state is not just a constitutional principle — it is a safeguard that protects religious freedom for every Texan. Public schools, funded by taxpayers of all faiths and beliefs, must remain neutral in matters of religion. Government-mandated religious displays violate that neutrality and erode the essential wall between church and state. SB 10 risks sending the message that Texas public schools favor one religious tradition over others. This is exactly the type of government entanglement with religion that the Founders sought to prevent. It does not strengthen faith — it weakens freedom. Students and families, not government officials, have the right to choose their religious path. Schools should be places of learning, not arenas for religious endorsement. Upholding the separation of church and state protects all Texans — Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, atheist, and everyone else alike. I support a vote AGAINST SB 10.

Mary Smith, MS
CWA of TX
Arlington, TX

I am in favor of SB 10 bill. As a child I was taught about our founding fathers and the difficulties they experienced in the beginning of this country and yet they used the 10 Commandments as guidelines to help incorporate justice in the new land. I look at our country today with sadness and dismay concerning the lack of respect and knowledge concerning our rich heritage. I see incivility towards one another, violence on our streets, in stores, in schools, and misconceptions concerning the role of government. Ignorance of our past makes us ignorant citizens. Please support this bill showing you care for our heritage and our country. Our hisitory unites us and is needed more than ever now.

Tiffany Orosco
Self
Friendswood, TX

As a parent of children who attend public schools, I believe religious education is a sacred duty of parents and our priest and it is a violation of that parental right to insert religion into public schools. I do not want someone else explaining what adultery is to my nine year old. This bill is performative nonsense in that posting the Commandments will not create any meaningful change in student behavior. It will create another unfunded expense for our public schools. The only thing this will accomplish is making those of another religion or no religion feel out of place. Children learn Christian values from observing adults around them, not from words on a wall.

Jane Strong
Self
Austin, TX

Religious freedom means all faiths are respected, and there is a fundamental right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference or support.
Religious education should be done by families and churches, not by schools.

Kristen Wallman
Self LSSP
Pearland, TX

No on this bill. No one I know wants this bill. It is a waste of time and resources, causes undue stress and confusion for no tangible gain. No teacher has the time to spend on this, and it's discriminatory against kids and teachers of other faiths. Give public schools mandates and resources that actually help kids and staff.

Sydney Schneider
self
San Antonio, TX

I believe that requiring their display in public schools undermines the constitutional separation of church and state. Our public education system serves students of all religious backgrounds—including those of different faiths and those with no religious affiliation. Government endorsement of one specific religious text sends an exclusionary message and infringes upon students' First Amendment rights.

Public schools should be places of learning not venues for religious promotion. The imposition of a particular religious doctrine—no matter how revered by some—threatens to divide communities and distract from the essential mission of education.

I urge you to uphold the constitutional values of religious freedom and government neutrality by opposing efforts to mandate religious displays in public classrooms.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. I look forward to your leadership in defending both the integrity of public education and the constitutional principles that protect the rights of every American.

Wendy Fallon
self
SHERMAN, TX

Placing the 10 commandments inside classrooms is not FREEDOM OF RELIGION, OR FREEDOM FROM RELIGION. Our country was founded upon this principal and its important.

Kristi Swice
self, Behavior Analyst
Dripping Springs, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB10, commonly known as the "Ten Commandments Bill."

While I personally attended a faith-based primary school — a choice made thoughtfully by my parents to expose me to Christian teachings — it is precisely because of that personal, voluntary decision that I oppose SB10. My parents were free to choose a religious education for me without it being imposed by a government institution. That distinction matters deeply. The right to religious expression must include the right to choose when, how, and whether to engage with religious content, especially in a setting as foundational as our public schools.

Public schools are designed to serve families of all faiths — and those of no faith — equally. Mandating the display of religious texts, even those as familiar and meaningful as the Ten Commandments, crosses a line that undermines religious freedom rather than protecting it. It shifts the responsibility for religious instruction from the family and religious communities to the state, a move that is both inappropriate and unconstitutional.

Our government's role is to protect religious liberty, not to promote specific religious doctrine. As someone who values my religious background and believes strongly in the importance of faith for those who seek it, I urge you to reject SB10 and preserve the neutrality and inclusiveness that public education demands.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristi Swice
Constituent from Dripping Springs, TX

Georgianne Hewett
Self
Georgetown, TX

I am a lifelong Christian. As a child, I was taught morals and ethics from the adults in my life - their behavior and choices. Yes, I memorized the Ten Commandments during Vacation Bible School and read fables, but those words would have been meaningless if they had not been reinforced by the behavior modeled by the adults in my life. I know that was true for my friends who grew up in other religious traditions as well. I am opposed to placing posters of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. I am not sure what the point of this bill is, except to push a Christian Nationalist agenda. If you want children to learn these values, then modeling them is the best way to teach them. A poster is not going to transform behavior. Children are smart. How we act is more important than what we say. Additionally, there are common values across all the world's religions. Wouldn't it be better to teach a lesson on shared values around the world? Why single out Christianity? As a child, knowing that people from many nations and many religions hold similar values would have made a strong impression on me. And, teaching shared values would be a more effective way to include children from diverse backgrounds and experiences represented in our public school population. I ask you to OPPOSE SB10.

Pamela Laflin, ms
self
Houston, TX

I believe that this bill is discriminatory and will make some students unnecessarily uncomfortable in a setting that should be engaging for all Texans. Let's remember that the Founding Fathers had very good and historically founded reasons to uphold a separation between Church and State. Please vote NO. Respectfully, Pam Laflin

Kristin Rice, Rev.

Self—Pastor

Texarkana, TX

Texas students and teachers come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others. Besides that, it takes the sacred texts of my faith and presents them without context or explanation to young and impressionable students. Teaching the faith is best left to families and worshiping communities. Sacred texts should not be co-opted to serve a governing party's agenda.

Bethany Graham

Self

Hondo, TX

Hi there, I'm Bethany Graham and I'm a parent, and a resident of Medina County for nearly 17 years. I'm writing in because I do not support SB 10. As someone who was raised in a primarily conservative, Christian town, and who grew up in the church, I can understand how someone could be supportive of a bill like this. But even though I was raised in a Christian church, and taught the 10 commandments; I was taught them by my parents and the fellowship they chose. And that's what this Bill is an infringement on, a parent's right to a choice. To teach their child THEIR religion, how they wish it to be taught, whatever that religion may be. I do not think this Bill would be as highly favored if it proposed displaying any other non-Christian religious quotes. If you do not feel comfortable with every religion being represented in the public classroom, then I think we can agree that Texas public schools are not the place for any sort of religion or religious text. I ask that the committee oppose this bill, I ask that they protect a parents right to choose what is best for their child, to protect our public schools by keeping religion, of any kind, out of it. Thank you, for taking the time to read my comments about the proposed bill and for doing what is best for all Texans. Have a good day.

Terry Kosobud

Grandparents for Public Schools

Austin, TX

Our Founding Father who were quite religious created the US where a specific religion was not sponsored by the government. Placing a specific version of the 10 Commandments into public classrooms violates this principle. Additionally the language in the 10 Commandments is difficult for children to understand. The 10 Commandments need to be discussed with children by their parents in their homes or by religious teachers in Sunday school or church.

Marie Purcell, Rev. Dr.

Self, University Faculty

Grand Prairie, TX

I strongly oppose this bill relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. It is clearly the privileging of one particular religion above others and the specific language and translation makes clear it privileges one sect of Christianity above others. This is an infringement on the establishment clause of the first amendment and completely inappropriate within public schools that offer educational services to a religiously plural and diverse population across Texas. I am an ordained minister with children in public schools and I am an educator and in all those roles I find this unacceptable. The 10 Commandments begin with a clear confession of faith in a particular God. They may include morals that are important and generally agreed upon by the public but there are other ways to promote morals in public schools that also value the freedom of religion enshrined in our constitution.
Please vote against SB 10.

Angela Lehman
Self
The Colony, TX

The fact that the legislature is trying its hardest to pass this bill goes to show how HOSTILE Texas Republicans are to religious freedom in the state. I live in the Dallas suburbs, which are home to many Hindu and Buddhist families. This bill would interfere with parents' rights to raise their children in the religion they choose. Furthermore, the bill mandates a specific version of the Ten Commandments that many Christians and Jews do not recognize, which interferes with those groups' right to form their own interpretations of religious text.

Support religious freedom by voting this bill down.

Also, I don't think we should ever be put in a situation where teachers have to explain adultery to six year olds.

Rebecca Baumgartner
Self
Allen, TX

I am a mom with a school-aged child and I am writing to ask you to strongly oppose the Ten Commandments Bill (SB 10).

Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others, which is clearly unconstitutional. This bill is not about religious freedom, but about control. It's an attempt by special interest groups and fundamentalist, extremist Christians to impose their beliefs on a pluralistic, open society in an attempt to make that society less pluralistic and less open. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice — or none at all — without government interference. Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments. As taxpayer-supported institutions that exist to serve ALL students in Texas, public schools should remain spaces that respect ALL Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.

Families who want their child to see a visible reminder of the Ten Commandments at school every day should send their child to a religious school. That is why such schools exist. This bill is attempting to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

The highly controversial and divisive SB 10 will further polarize society, lead to a flood of lawsuits that will cost taxpayers even more, and will create unwelcoming, hostile learning environments for both teachers and students of all faiths and backgrounds. Even Christians should oppose this bill for the way it shamelessly disregards the separation of church and state, a foundational American value that has existed in this country from its very beginning.

The state of Texas should be focusing on more important matters, such as ensuring every school receives the resources it needs to educate the next generation, rather than wasting everyone's time with frivolous bills about limiting library access for minors and posting religious propaganda in public schools. Stop disrespecting the Constitution, stop wasting everyone's time with ultra-conservative agendas that help no one and purport to solve problems that don't exist, and do your real job. In case you forgot, your real job is representing your constituents, not bowing to religious donors and lobbyists or letting your private religious beliefs take precedence over your duty to act in the public's best interest.

I urge you to vote NO on the unconstitutional Ten Commandments Bill (SB 10).

Rebecca Baumgartner
Self
Allen, TX

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I urge you to vote NO on the unconstitutional Ten Commandments Bill (SB 10).

Pamela Kemp
Self
Austin, TX

Our children need to learn how to read and write and think. Everyone does not subscribe to Christian beliefs and if the Ten Commandments are posted, so should be favored texts from Mohammed, Buddha, and many other revered religions. But the place to advance any religious belief is in the home, the church, the temple or any other holy place. Show some respect for ALL families. Keep your religion out of our schools.

Jim Read
Self, Business owner
Austin, TX

The first clause of the first sentence of the first amendment to the Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Displaying and teaching the religious texts of Abrahamic religions as a foundation for the whole curriculum is a flagrant violation of the single most important principle set forth in the Bill of Rights. It is the main reason the Pilgrims and so many others came and stayed in this country. I've heard the argument that these are merely principles of behavior that are agreed upon by everyone. And when you look at commandments like "Thou shall not kill" that sounds reasonable. But let's not forget the first 3 Commandments are (paraphrased due to differences in translations): "I am the Lord, your God. I am a jealous God and you will worship no god but me." "Keep holy the Sabbath" and "Thou shalt not use my name in vain." These three commandments are ONLY applicable to Abrahamic religions and would force polytheists and atheists to adhere to actions and beliefs that go directly against their religious doctrine. This is directly preventing their free exercise of religion and I, as a patriot who loves this country and this state, will not stand by while theocrats try to overthrow centuries of precedent and protections for all our citizens. We demonize other countries for their theocratic ways. Our veterans fought and died to free other countries from such rules and to make sure it was well known they were not welcome here. And yet our assembled legislature sits here willing to even give such a flagrant slap in the face a legitimate hearing. What madness do we live in today? Every single individual who promoted and brought this bill forward and agreed to hear it here should be ashamed. They have forgotten what it is to be American, let alone Texan. They have caved to the fear stoked by would be oppressors. They forget that "home of the brave" doesn't mean carrying guns and bullying people different than you. It means people willing to stand up for what's right and to make sure that the vulnerable are protected. This bill must be unanimously rejected.

Sandra Gavrilla
Self - retired
Coppell, TX

I live in Coppell, Texas, a suburb of Dallas, and our community has a very large number of people that have legally moved to the US from India and Japan. Coppell is a wonderful, warm community that welcomes all these cultural differences and believes this makes us stronger. These countries have different religious traditions as well, specifically Hinduism, Muslim and Buddhism. We welcome their children into our classrooms at our great schools, but how will they feel when the Ten Commandments are on the wall of every classroom? Public schools should respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs and not choose one religious tradition over all others. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion or your choice, or none at all, without government interference. Please vote NO on this bill.

Lauren Fisk
Self (teacher)
Conroe, TX

I am a teacher in Conroe ISD, and I am opposed to this bill because all students should feel welcome in school regardless of their religion. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.

Amanda Rios-Place
self
Spring, TX

I oppose SB 10 because it is not about religious freedom, but about control.
Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others, which is unconstitutional.
True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.
Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs. Repeat: respect; not understand, like, or agree with.
Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments.
Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education, as is their constitutional right.

David Troiano
Self-retired
Highland Village, TX

This is a bill that violates both the Texas and US constitution by favoring 1 religion over the others. It is not the business of Texas to push a religion on its residents including school children. If this bill is passed it will likely result in lawsuits by people of other or no religion which will cost the state significant funds. So, it is not worth it. Please do not move this bill forward.

Andrew Pierce
Self Teacher
Waco, TX

As a Public School Teacher, I strongly support SB 10. Kids need to have a moral compass, and the Ten Commandments are an important part of US History. In fact, it is even in the Supreme Court Building.
However, as someone who grew up going to a Jewish Synagogue, there is one small amendment I would like. The bill is based on the monument at the Capitol, which uses the King James Bible. The King James is very similar to the Jewish tradition but has one key difference. It says “Thou shalt not kill”, however, the Jewish tradition and almost all modern Bibles like the NLT, NIV, Etc., would say murder. By saying kill it is sort of saying Combat Veterans and Police Officers have done something wrong. I also want to say I have met people from a variety of faith traditions and people with no religion at all who believe in most of the ten commandments, things like thou shalt not murder, being faithful to your spouse, not stealing, and honoring your parents.
This is a great bill but can be made even better by amending page 2 line 5 from “Thou Shalt not kill” to “Thou Shalt not kill (murder).”

Mary Climer
Texas Alliance for Retired Americans
Dallas, TX

Please oppose this bill as it clearly is in opposition to the separation of Church and State. If this door is opened, then expect unintended consequences to arise the first day. If you indeed see the necessity in this, I propose these questions and thoughts. What translation of these will be used, as there are multiple from which to choose? Perhaps the best would be the original language, or maybe a screen shot of the tablets used in the movie “The Ten Commandments”. If passed as a requirement in classrooms, will they be included on the STAAR test? Certainly if so important, then explanations must surely be tested. And with some school districts in Texas using curriculum that includes student participation as in ‘turn and talk’, how will that be handled? And how does one explain the death penalty to students? THOU SHALL NOT KILL. The list is endless. And of course, if required, will the thorough understanding of text be included of teacher certification? And what are the consequences to a school district, school, or classroom teacher that violate the Act if it passes? And is there a certain vendor to be used in obtaining the poster or image as is in purchase of textbooks? Please take seriously the vote on this bill that will cross the lines of our U S constitution right of freedom of (or from) religion .

Abhijit Madhu Kumar, Rev
Self, Engineer
Austin, TX

This bill shows favoritism to the Christian faiths, and places Christianity above other faiths or lack thereof. It would violate the religious freedom of practitioners of non-Christian faiths. If the ten commandments are to be displayed in public school classrooms, then I contend that there should also be passages from the Quran, the Bhagavadgita, the Torah, and any other religious texts that apply to students in that classroom. In addition suitable accommodations must be made for students who have not been raised in organized religion. This bill has been poorly thought out and has been put forward in poor faith as an imposition of one group's values over all others.

Susan Anderson
self
Benbrook, TX

I am writing in opposition to SB 10. This bill is a harmful overreach that threatens religious freedom, misuses sacred texts for political purposes, and diverts public resources away from real educational needs.

Public schools are responsible for serving students of all faiths and of no faith—not for endorsing or promoting religious doctrine. The Supreme Court made clear in *Stone v. Graham* (1980) that posting the Ten Commandments in public schools is unconstitutional. SB 10 directly conflicts with that ruling, and nothing in *Kennedy v. Bremerton* changes this principle. By requiring the Ten Commandments to be displayed in every classroom, SB 10 imposes a specific religious message on all students, violating both the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, which prohibit government from favoring one religion over others.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I am part of a faith tradition that welcomes people of all religions, as well as those without religious belief. Our tradition is rooted in shared values, not a single creed or doctrine. I want public schools to be places where students’ diverse beliefs are respected. The Ten Commandments are sacred scripture for many, but even among faiths that honor them, interpretations vary. It is not the government's role to impose religious belief. Doing so cheapens faith and undermines the religious freedom that belongs to every Texan.

At a time when public schools face serious budget challenges, it is irresponsible to spend taxpayer dollars on religious displays instead of instruction, teacher salaries, and student support. Lawsuits challenging SB 10 will also cost the state significant legal fees—funds that should be invested in strengthening our schools, not wasted defending unconstitutional laws.

Please protect true religious liberty, uphold the Constitution, and use taxpayer dollars wisely by rejecting SB 10.

Jennifer Bates, Reverend
self
Denton, TX

As a pastor, I oppose this bill. In 2023, I spoke before the House Public Education Committee against this bill and my feelings remain the same. As i work with families in churches my kids say how they don't want to talk about their religion in schools because they see how their friends and themselves are bullied by christians. yes christians bully other christians for not believing in the "right christianity". this bill adds to that bullying. it places christianity above other religions by putting our religious symbol above others. it further ostracizes non-christian students, making them feel less safe. mandating religion is against the constitution. all of this makes my work as a pastor harder because i have to explain to my students why the schools only have these commandments but don't seem to be following the commandments of loving your God, self, and neighbor. the state isn't following the greatest commandment for sure in the way it treats LGBTQ+ students. This bill reeks to me of hypocrisy. As my Jewish siblings mentioned last session, which 10 will you promote, as there are over 600 in the Old Testament alone. Other states that have enacted this bill have been sued, so we can assume the same thing will happen here, wasting state time and money. I oppose this bill, leave religious education to people like me and our faith communities.

Mark Chancey
self, college professor
Dallas, TX

As a biblical studies professor, church-going Christian, parent, and product of public schools, I oppose posting the Ten Commandments in schools. Doing so would violate the religious freedom of Texans by promoting particular religious views over all other perspectives.

When the State of Texas mandates the posting of religious material, it is de facto promoting the claims in that material. "I AM the Lord they God" and "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" are religious claims that demand the exclusive worship of the biblical god. Obviously, many Texans do not worship that God, and the State of Texas has no business pressuring them to do so. "Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images" prohibits the use of idols, a direct refutation of the beliefs and practices of Texans who identify with religions that incorporate idols and similar images into worship practices. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" urges religious observance of a day that is holy for Jews and Christians but not recognized as such by the non-religious or by people of other traditions. (It also potentially generates confusion, since Jews and Christians observe a different sabbath.)

This bill also violates religious freedom by creating what is essentially an official, state-recognized version of the Ten Commandments. That version takes sides in interpretive debates over the Ten Commandments and reflects interpretive decisions that not all Jews and Christians share. First of all, the bill follows the version of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:2-17 over that in Deuteronomy 5:6-21. Second of all, the bill's version picks and chooses which parts of Exodus 20:2-17 to include. It actually omits most of the passage. Thirdly, a comparison of the bill's version with multiple translations shows that it closely follows the King James Bible, departing from it in only minor ways. This reflects favoritism toward Protestantism. It results in the use of archaic language that many Jews and Christians do not typically use ("Thou shalt," etc.). It also means that the State of Texas would be promoting particular interpretations of Hebrew words. The Texas version would read, "Thou shalt not kill," but the Hebrew passage is better translated "You shall not murder." The Texas version would read, "Thou shalt not covet they neighbor's ... manservant nor his maidservant," archaic language that obscures the fact that the commandment is referring not to "servants" but to enslaved men and women. The version thus obscures the commandment's meaning and whitewashes the disturbing fact that it legitimizes the abhorrent practice of slavery. It is religiously important to many Jews and Christians to face headlong the ways in which parts of the Bible do not live up to the more important ethical ideals found elsewhere.) The government has no business deciding what belongs in the Ten Commandments and what doesn't or how to word them, and it has no business promoting some religious views over others.

Megan Gordon
Self, Author
Addison, TX

I am a parent from Addison, and I oppose the displaying of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. The Constitution of the United States prohibits the establishment of a national religion, and displaying items from the Christian Bible favors one belief system over another. Not every child in Texas schools is Christian, nor should they have to be. I cannot imagine a bill that required the display of the ten rules of Islam or the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism would be particularly popular. Religion, faith, is highly personal and is something that should be introduced and nurtured at home. It cannot be dictated by government or by schools. Schools exist to teach kids how to read, write, and think for themselves, not to follow someone else's idea of faith. The Founding Fathers specifically prohibited the establishment of religion in this country for good reason—they wanted to foster freedom in all its forms.

Jake Wilson
Self - CPA
Fort Worth, TX

I support Senate Bill 10 relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

I want to acknowledge the great significance of the moment, in which the Texas Legislature holds a hearing for SB 10, within the larger story of history. The Texas House hearing on April 29, 2025 relates all the way back to when the Israelites received the Ten Commandments from God in the desert, thousands of years ago. The Israelites in Exodus 20, verses 1 through 21, heard God give the commandments from the mountain – with thunder, lightning, a trumpet sound, and the mountain smoking.

But in Exodus 32, when Moses had not returned from the mountain, they became concerned and wanted to do their own thing apart from God. Wouldn't it have blown the Israelites' minds that Moses was receiving a message from God on tablets, so significant that even thousands of years later a group of state legislators this week, on a continent that they didn't even know existed, would be discussing whether to place an English translation of this message from God in every Texas public school classroom?

I think it's a lesson for us. How often, after God has revealed Himself to us individually, do we lose faith because God is not moving fast enough for us? So then we may start doing our own thing, and miss the significance of how God is working all around us the whole time.

Acts 17:25 says "He himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything." The God Himself who gave these Ten Commandments is the One who holds the breath of every Texas student, teacher, and parent in His hands, as I understand Daniel 5:23.

God allows people the freedom to reject Him, and so likewise we should respect their religious liberty to worship as they see fit. If a teacher does not want to put a Ten Commandments poster up, someone else can put the Ten Commandments poster up in that teacher's classroom instead. But I don't see how merely having a Ten Commandments poster on a wall compels anyone to do anything against their will.

Please support Senate Bill 10. Thank you Senator King and Representative Noble. Thank you all very much.

Jake Wilson
Fort Worth, TX
SD9 and HD91

Sean Marmolejo
Self
Clifton, TX

I am writing to ask you to protect the religious freedom of Texas students and oppose House Bill 1009 in Texas.

Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs. Students already have the right to pray, read religious texts, and express their faith at school. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 1009. Families—not government—should direct their children's religious education.

Say NO to HB1009 and protect true religious freedom in Texas public schools.

I as the father of my children should be the only person to incorporate faith, or any like practices, in my children's lives. Not the state. I would not expect anyone of any faith background to be forced to consume others doctrine, as I am sure that the Christian right is not comfortable with other methods being incorporated publicly either.

Ginnie Morrison
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I oppose the posting of the 10 commandments in public school classrooms and on public school property.

Virginia Noble
Self, student
San Antonio, TX

As a lifelong Christian, who has grown up in the Episcopal church, and as a seminary student, I vehemently oppose any move to merge state and church or any move towards a theocracy.

Melanie Ward
self/teacher
Tyler, TX

As a lifelong Texan, a dedicated educator, and a firm believer in the principles of our Constitution, I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal opposition to any legislation requiring the Ten Commandments to be displayed in Texas public school classrooms.

This mandate represents a direct violation of the foundational principle of the separation of church and state. Public schools are intended to be spaces where students of all backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths feel safe, respected, and free from religious imposition. Requiring the display of a specific religious text in every classroom sends the dangerous and exclusionary message that one faith is prioritized over others—a message that has no place in our public education system.

If such a law is passed, then fairness demands that texts from all faith traditions—such as the Quran, the Bhagavad Gita, the Torah, and other sacred writings—be given equal space and visibility. But the real issue is not about inclusion of many religions; it's that religion should not be legislated into public school classrooms at all. It is simply not necessary and not appropriate.

The priorities of Texas leadership must shift away from performative, divisive proposals like this and focus instead on real solutions for our students—addressing teacher shortages, funding mental health resources, improving access to quality education, and ensuring safe learning environments for all.

This measure is not about morality. It's about power. It's about distraction. And it's about undermining the constitutional freedoms of the very students and families our public schools exist to serve.

I urge you to vote against any legislation that mandates the display of religious texts in our classrooms and to uphold the constitutional protections that ensure religious liberty through freedom from state-endorsed religion.

Respectfully,
Melanie Ward

John Curran
Self/Seminary Student
Austin, TX

I am a seminary student, in the ordination process with the Presbyterian Church (USA), and I oppose this bill!

Elizabeth Dana, Rev.
Self, Minister
Dallas, TX

As a Unitarian Universalist minister, I am called to live my values without imposing or mandating that others follow the same path I have chosen or embrace the same beliefs I hold. I strongly oppose SB 10 because I believe everyone should be free to choose their own spiritual path—and when the government promotes one religion's rules, like the Ten Commandments, it pushes others aside and crosses the line between church and state.

Katie Bailey
Self
Round Rock, TX

Vote NO. Protect true freedom for f religion and separation of church and state.

Kelli Bland
Self- Seamstress
Austin, TX

Hello, I am a lifelong resident of Texas, and I grew up in public schools. When I was in high school in Port Arthur, TX, I was the founder of our school's Christian club. I led See You At The Pole efforts, standing with fellow Christian peers and praying in front of our school's flag. I was proud then to stand with other students to pray for our school's flag and our nation. But I do not believe it should have a home inside our schools. My schools growing up were filled with people from all walks of life, and all faiths. This country was founded on religious freedom. For everyone. We cannot push a single faith on students who may believe otherwise. They shouldn't feel excluded or that they are wrong about what they believe. I am in opposition to SB10. And I pray that it will not pass.

Caroline Greiner
UU Dallas
Dallas, TX

As a public school teacher, I do not support any bill which allows religious and worship materials to be displayed in a public classroom. Our role is to create a leaning space for the children of every family in our community. Publicly-funded institutions have observed this fundamental separation of church and state since our nation's infancy. This principal has allowed our country to grow and flourish beyond measure. Please reject any and all proposals which seek to undermine the secular tone of our publicly-funded, shared community institutions.

Adelia Humme
Self, homemaker
Richardson, TX

As a lifelong Christian, I strongly object to the mandated display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. By selecting an approved version of scripture for display in public spaces, the state government would undermine the freedom of Texans to exercise their own consciences in choosing translations consistent with their faiths. As a mother, I am also concerned about the government overstepping by interfering with my ability to teach my children about religion in a way consistent with our family's values. School administrators and teachers should be allowed to create classroom environments that respond to students' needs and interests and that serve the subject areas—math, reading, science, history—being taught.

Cynthia Huyser
self, writer
Austin, TX

SB 10, which requires the display of the Ten Commandments in all public school classrooms, proposes a law that establishes a religious text (specifically, the Protestant version of the Ten Commandments) in a setting where children are compelled to be. We are a pluralistic nation and state, and this bill does not serve the well-being of Texan children, whose families may in fact be Hindu, Buddhist, atheist, etc. I do not want Protestant Christianity imposed on the children of Texas--that is not the function of public education. Such an imposition would be in violation of Amendment 1 of the United States Constitution, which forbids the establishment of religion.

Barbara Martin
Self
Austin, TX

OPPOSE - This bill is not about religious freedom but about control. Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs. True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice—or none at all—without government interference. Texas students come from diverse religious backgrounds and deserve inclusive learning environments. Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education.

Shernaz Garcia, Dr.
Self/Retired educator
Austin, TX

I am protesting the very idea of senate bill 10, which would require the Ten Commandments to be displayed in public school classrooms, because it violates the principle of separation of church and state. Freedom of religion is a constitutional right, not just for Christians in the country, but for followers of all other religions as well as atheists and agnostics. Placing the commandments in classrooms across the state violates this right, and promotes the preference for one chosen religion, Christianity. This is not education, it is PROSELYTIZING. If we want to promote religious EDUCATION, then let's encourage the display of beliefs and teachings from every other religion represented in the community, state and nation. Please stop SB 10 from moving forward.

Megan Brown
Self, public servant
Pflugerville, TX

Keep religion out of public schools. Save the 10 commandments for Bible school. Not everyone is Christian!!

James Gerring
Self
Austin, TX

True religious freedom means equal respect for all faiths and the right to practice the religion of your choice, including none at all, without government interference. Public schools are government institutions, and in the US the constitution explicitly guarantees the separation of church and state. This is a blatant violation! Keep your 10 commandments in your churches and OUT of our public schools.

Susan Thomson
Self, Retired
Pflugerville, TX

I am opposed to SB10. There is no educational need to place copies of the Ten Commandments in Texas public school classrooms. If parents want their children to study the Ten Commandments they can send them to Sunday School. There are many churches throughout Texas.

Lyle Shipton
self / engineer
Dallas, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 10, which would mandate the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms!!! While I respect the historical significance of religious traditions, our public schools MUST remain welcoming to students of ALL FAITHS and beliefs—OR NONE AT ALL! Requiring the display of one religion's doctrine in a government-run setting not only undermines the constitutional principle of separation of church and state, but it also alienates those who follow different spiritual paths or no religion at all.

AS A PERSON OF FAITH THAT VALUES RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, I believe that true liberty means the government should not impose or endorse any particular religious perspective. Students and families deserve the RIGHT to explore and practice their beliefs without state interference or preference. SB 10 VIOLATES THAT RIGHT!

Please reject this bill and uphold the constitutional values of religious freedom for all Texans!!!

Andra Villegas, Mrs
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

Why would this EVER be a good idea? I regularly attend my church services every week and many events during the week. The 10 Commandments need to be taught in the home and at church, not in the public schools! If the state displays the 10 Commandments, then we need to recognize the Jewish faith, along with any other faiths in the school.

Frieda Mottonen
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Austin, TX

I am a person of faith, but this is just ridiculous. Schools should not be a place where religious doctrine is displayed, from any religion. It is the place of the family and the parents to make decisions about religious beliefs.

Diane Duesterhoeft
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
San Antonio, TX

I'm strongly opposed to this bill that violates separation of church and state.

Leslie Palmer
Self
DALLAS, TX

I believe in religious freedom, therefore the displaying of one religion's commandments is a way of NOT recognizing the spiritual choices of other groups.

Margot Moczygemba
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I am against this bill and I want the committee to oppose this bill. This could raise significant concerns about the separation of church and state, as it may be seen as promoting a specific religious doctrine. Schools could instead focus on teaching universal moral values through secular ethics education. This approach could include lessons on empathy, integrity, and respect for others, which are applicable to students of all backgrounds. Additionally, programs that encourage community service and social responsibility can help instill these values without aligning with a particular religious belief.

Lindsey Crow
Myself
Austin, TX

Please vote NO on SB 10. This bill has nothing to do with parental choice and everything to do with pushing white Christian nationalism. This country is rich with choice and we shouldn't allow schools to dictate what faith our children are taught or exposed to. I also believe in separation of church and state. Finally, I am very upset that my tax dollars are going to fund private schools for wealthy families instead of making Texas public schools the best in our country.

Elyse Munselle
self, VP of Operations
Austin, TX

To our representatives that so strongly believed in "parental choice" that they wanted to pass the voucher bill, please be consistent now and vote NJO. Public schools should remain a safe space for all Texas families, in all religious beliefs. Just as all families with all religious beliefs should, as you believe, be able to send their kids to whatever school is best for them. Texas students come from diverse backgrounds, and they deserve inclusive learning environments. Being a kid is hard enough, and being isolated as the kid whose religion is not the one in favor makes it impossible for all kids to feel included. I know you agree that families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education. Please be consistent here.

Maria Person
self, Director
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as it acts against the constitutional amendment of freedom of religion.

Jana Dodd
Grandparent
Austin, TX

Please vote against SB 10! Allow parents to teach their children religion. Continue to allow separation of church & state. I truly feel strongly that the 10 commandments does not belong in the classroom. Many students belong to different religions. Thanks for your time & consideration.

Susanna Sharpe
Self, Writer/Editor and Musician
AUSTIN, TX

I am a long-time Texas voter, and the mother of two who attended public schools in Texas. I am writing to voice my objection to SB 10, which would mandate the display of the Ten Commandments in Texas public schools. It is most tempting to stop at the question, "Isn't the separation of Church and State the law of the land?" Like my children, I am also the product of public education in this country, in schools where we were taught that this separation is one of the basic tenets of our Republic. The presence of the Ten Commandments in a public school sends a menacing message to students, educators, and administrators. By ignoring the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, it hints at the existence of a hierarchy in which we only follow the laws we like. It hints at a hierarchy in which students and teachers who identify as Christians are in a different, more privileged class than those who do not identify this way. It hints at an in-group and an out-group, even as public school should be a place that is equally welcoming to all, an institution that does not promote religion at all. I would urge members who are troubled by this overstep to listen to constituents like me, and also to listen to their conscience. The government favoring one particular religion in Texas public schools is unconstitutional.

Lydia Dombrowski, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

As a child I had to stand in the hall with other Catholic and Jewish students. I don't want any student to have their beliefs denigrated. Which version of the 10 commandments would you put up????

Terry Kosobud
Grandparents for Public Schools
Austin, TX

Placing a sign in every classroom that reads "Do unto others as you would want others to do unto you." Is simple and understandable by all kids. The 10 Commandments however has language most younger kids wouldn't understand. Words like "covet" and "adultery" are not understood by young kids. Which is why the 10 Commandments don't belong in school. They could be taught in Sunday School by people who understand their religion.

Stephen Finn, Dr.
self - psychologist
Austin, TX

If passed, this bill would privilege one religious group (or several) above others, and make children who are not Christian or Jewish feel that they do not belong. As a psychologist I believe this would be detrimental to ALL children's mental health. I believe families, not governments, should direct children's education.

Heather Bailey
Self - consultant
Austin, TX

I am a 6th generation Texas resident, daughter of school teacher and granddaughter of a school administrator. I live in Austin Texas. My father fought in two wars and was a decorated war hero defending our constitutional rights. I am also a parent of sons who attended public schools and one who attended a private Catholic school. I am opposed to the posting of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

As the group who felt it critical that parents are afforded choice and control over their children's education, to the point you approved subsidizing vouchers to private schools, you should also be opposed to this. If a parent wants their children to learn the 10 commandments, teach them at home - or better yet - live them. If religious based education is important, parents now have the means to send their children to religious based schools, via vouchers.

In honor of our forefathers, keep church and state separate and keep religion out of public school system. Oppose the posting of the 10 Commandments in our public schools!
Thank you for your service and support.
Heather Bailey

Bonnie Artale, Ms
Texas Freedom Network
Cedar Park, TX

VOte NO on SB 10. Please protect the separation of Church and State.

Elizabeth Wally, ms
Self
Dallas, TX

I am Liz Wally, 81 years old, native Dallasite, mother and a grandmother of an 11th grader in DISD. I am against this bill, SB10, which is similar to ones tried over time here in Texas and elsewhere. I remember various fights and the discomfort, confusion, and division that attitudes mixed up the politics caused by "my religion is better than yours". Our nation was founded by people trying to get away from the lack of freedom and the pain resulting from living under a despot and state religion. I cherish the political and religious influences our diverse state offers me and my family. This bill will stifle this freedom to honor and respect differences. Religion is separate from government and politics - period. I ask you to vote NO! on SB 10

Robin Covington
Self
Richardson, TX

I am studying the Constitution right now, and this very clearly violates it. Also, why do we want young children to be constantly looking at and thinking about adultery or killing? This is very inappropriate and should not move forward, as Texas will just be sued by the ACLU and will most likely lose. Let's not waste everyone's time.

Melissa France
self
Pilot Point, TX

This bill blatantly favors one religion, Christianity, above all others and goes against the separation of church and state as stated in the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". Texas is not above the Constitution of the United States and any committee member that votes in favor of this bill goes against the Constitution. Additionally, voting for this bill is not the Christian thing to do. We, the people, are watching your votes closely.

Matthew Anderson
Self
Coppell, TX

My name is Matthew Anderson. I live in Texas Senate District 12, and I am an educator and a Christian. I want to express my firm opposition to SB 10. This bill favors one religion over others, which is neither appropriate nor effective in public education. While I personally recognize the 10 Commandments as sacred religious teaching, it is undoubtedly a personal choice. It is the role of the individual and the family, not a publicly funded entity, to dictate and facilitate teachings and values tied to a specific religion. As a teacher, I understand how endorsing certain viewpoints or religious teaching in the classroom is extremely damaging to learning. It sends a message that students are not welcome unless they conform, and inhibits teaching respect for all humans, regardless of differences.

Religious freedoms are violated when preference for one faith is shown over others. SB 10 would isolate and disenfranchise community members who are not Christian, and is a huge overstep in government control. it hinders religious freedom. This does not align with what it means to be a Texan. I am asking that you oppose SB 10.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Matthew Anderson

Tracy Wolfe
Self
Cypress, TX

First, this an UNDUE FINANCIAL BURDEN on school districts already struggling with budget demands. Second, the blatant disregard for religious freedom is appalling. Are the 5 Tenets of Islam, the 13 principles of Jewish Faith, the 4 Noble Truths of Buddhism, etc also going to be displayed, so we aren't discriminating against and persecuting children and staff of different faiths? Are we going to allow them to feel unsafe at a public school because their beliefs are different than ours? Third, I don't want anyone, but me, my husband, and our church of choice teaching my children about their faiths. It is not the public school's responsibility or right to teach. What happened with tenders only teaching "math, science, and reading?" Forcing Christian beliefs on everyone is indoctrination and grooming whether you want to admit it or not. Forth, who's going to explain to elementary kids what adultery is when they read it? Is that the teachers responsibility? Should they call members of the Texas government for that education?

This is an irresponsible and financially unconservative bill. You've already passed ESAs, so ALL of those who want a Christian based education, can now get one. Isn't that was guaranteed with ESAs, it's what was best for EVERYONE. You can't have both.

Mike Bernhardt
Self
Crawford, TX

I was a career Social Studies department chair over 31 years in the classroom. Separation of church/state is a fundamental principle of the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I also took an oath as a VietNam veteran to uphold/defend that same Constitution. Your vote against passage of this bill is expected.

JAMES GALLAGHER
self
JONESTOWN, TX

The Ten Commandments belong in Sunday School not Public school. Reject this blatant attack on religious freedom.

Judy Wilkins
Self
558 Cottonwood Lane, Pottsboro TX 75076, TX

Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others. Families, not government mandates, should direct children's religious education. As a parent, it is my right and duty to direct my child's religious education.

Blair Polly
Self
Denton, TX

I'm a public educator and a Christian and believe this bill is a violation of separation of church and state. Please vote no, as this bill is unnecessary and not beneficial to students. This will be a pointless waste of tax dollars should it be implemented.

Allison Tater
Self
Austin, TX

I am a parent of two students in Texas public schools right here in Austin. I also go to church, which is where my kids and others should learn about religion. They should NOT be learning about it in public school. Placing the Ten Commandments in a public school classroom shows favoritism for one religion over another. That's not what PUBLIC school is about. Families, not the government, should determine what their children learn about with regard to religion. Public schools should remain spaces that respect all Texas families' diverse religious beliefs.

Thank you for your time, please direct your efforts elsewhere and leave religion out of our public schools.

Erin Burns
Self, librarian
Lubbock, TX

Hello good people of the Texas legislature. This bill is in direct violation of one of the clauses in the constitution, regarding the separation of church and state. I am opposed to this bill for a variety of reasons, mostly because it is a waste of taxpayers money to implement, and would also be a waste of tax payers money to have to defend this in a court of law. You will be facing lawsuits from the ACLU and most likely the Church of Satan, and other faith traditions as well. Good luck wasting more of the taxpayers money trying to defend the unconstitutional.

Aleksandra Guerra

Self

Tomball, TX

We established the separation of church and state a long time ago for a reason. It does not represent all children/families and their various cultures and religions and it has no place in the secular public school system.

Susan Pintchovski

Self

Austin, TX

I urge committee members to vote against SB 10 to unequivocally support religious freedom and not promote one particular religion over another in public spaces. You have an obligation to uphold our constitution and honor the provisions of the establishment clause.

Justine Woodmassoud

Self

FORT WORTH, TX

Separation of church and state is necessary for the representation of ALL of the voters who voted you into office. If you begin allowing any religious doctrine into a school you must allow it from ALL religions from around the globe, including atheism. Religious beliefs are taught at home only.

Angel Vega

Self

Manor, TX

There must be respect for the separation of church and state. Religion does not belong in the classroom. Vote against SB 10!

Diana Burns

self

Dallas, TX

Our Founding Fathers wisely included the separation of church and state in the Constitution. They saw the horror of war and persecution in the name of religion as something they wanted to avoid for this new nation. Yes, they were Christian, but they wanted the government to be free, so each person could exercise their own faith. Requiring the 10 Commandments to be posed in every classroom violates this wise decision and I strongly bill. There are laws that support most of the commandments. Post them.

Adam Stiles

Self/Service Coordinator

Austin, TX

Oppose

Ruth H
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose SB10. With the critical issues that need to be addressed in the Texas education system, this bill is not it. As stated in the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". There is nothing clearer and passing this bill violates the First Amendment. I oppose this bill and urge our legislators to do the same.

Thank you for your time.

Sarah Powell
Self-voiced teacher
Grapevine, TX

This is a violation of separation of church and state, and unconstitutional. My children have not been raised in a religious household. Our right to religious freedom includes not having one at all, and it is a violation of their religious freedom to subject them to see the Ten Commandments in school every day in every classroom. Not to mention any child who does not have a Judeo-Christian family heritage. I am vehemently opposed to this show of religious prejudice towards one faith in particular.

Liesl-Ann deVilliers
Self
Dallas, TX

I would be ok with it if you give each child a copy of the Bahdvagita as well.

As a Christian I could not object more strongly to this.

M.E. Ram
Self, retired
Argyle, TX

This bill is unconstitutional and misguided. As a Christian, I want Christian precepts taught in my home and place of worship, not public schools. Public institutions should be secular and serve citizens of ALL faiths and those who have no faith tradition. Posting the 10 Commandments gives the appearance that Texas privileges Christians and Jews over Buddhists, Muslims, Baha'is, Daoists, and Confucianists. I ask that you rescind or reject this bill.

Tim Fitzpatrick
Self
Dallas, TX

This directly violates the separation of church and state and is an affront to our society.

Leslie Morse
Self
Dallas, TX

The founders of this nation built this country under the strong assertion that there be a separation between church and state. The Establishment Clause clearly prohibits the government from creating or endorsing a religion. This bill is a clear violation of that clause.

Paula Stein
self
Richardson, TX

I am a Christian but have issues with this proposed bill. First, the Supreme Court has ruled that posting the Ten Commandments in public schools is unconstitutional. Shouldn't Texas abide by this ruling? Also, public schools educate Christians, Muslims, Hindus, other faiths and people of no faith. It is not the educators or legislators' responsibility to instruct on religious matters. It is a family's choice and responsibility to instruct on these matters.

Hilary Haines
Self
Houston, TX

Public schools are not Christian schools. Unless you display doctrine from all religions this bill favors one religious tradition over all others.

Brielle Insler
Self, owner
San Antonio, TX

NO on SB 10!! Does this legislature care at all about the constitution? Separation of church and state is constitution 101. The Bible and religion has NO place in public schools. I am a mother, small business owner, and no matter what your religion is, we have a RIGHT in this country to not have others' religious beliefs shoved down our throats. The Ten Commandments belong in church, synagogue and Sunday school, NOT public institutions. Stop making it so unbelievably clear that you're in those seats for your own agendas and actually think of our children for once. This is atrocious. Vote no on SB 10.

Karen Santhanam
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I oppose SB 10. First, there should be separation of church and state. Schools are not the place for Christian evangelists to proselytize to kids. Christianity is not the only religion and we need to leave it to families, not the government, to teach beliefs to kids.

Second, Christian churches everywhere post the 10 Commandments and talk about them endlessly but it hasn't made a difference in church affairs where there is rampant sexual abuse, mass shootings and plenty of immoral behavior. Thinking that posting the 10 Commandments will do anything to improve schools is ridiculous. It will only intimidate and exclude people with differing beliefs. Vote NO on SB 10!

Carolyn Dower
self, retired nurse
austin, TX

I believe in separation of church and state. Like it or not, Texas is a diverse state with many families of different faith. Putting the Ten Commandments in the classroom is a slap in the face of students of a different religion. It would only serve to make non-Christian students to feel like an outsider. Please do not do that to our children. ALL faiths should be respected and none placed above another.

DO NOT display the Ten Commandments in schools anywhere! Like Ronald Reagan said, Church and State are, and must remain, separate.

Thank you.
Carolyn Dower
