

Uphold Science Standards

Liz Hrenda, August 16, 2001 -- On July 12, 2001, the State Board of Education voted to eliminate the language which was intended to allow the teaching of creationism as science in the proposed state education standards. This followed a period of legislative and regulatory scrutiny and public comment. The standards are not final yet, and there will be another 20 day legislative committee review period and another review by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission before the regulations are finally adopted.

Please take this opportunity to write to all members of the House and Senate Education Committees and urge them to uphold the language that the Board is now proposing. Emails, postcards, and phone calls are good communication tools, but letters and faxes are the most effective and persuasive way of communicating our views to elected officials. For your convenience, you may copy, paste, and complete a sample letter posted on www.padnet.org/evol.html, or use the attached. It is important to include your full name and address to show your constituency.

House Education Committee members:

Jess Stairs	Jere Schuler
Jerry Nailor	Thomas Stevenson
Edward Krebs	Nicholas Colafella
Fred McIlhattan	James Roebuck
Bob Bastian	William Robinson
Paul Clymer	Thaddeus Kirkland
Patrick Fleagle	Lawrence Curry
Robert Flick	Richard Grucela
Lynn Herman	Phyllis Mundy
John Lawless	Michael Sturla
Daryl Metcalfe	Connie Williams
Ron Miller	Thomas Yewcic
Samuel Rohrer	

Mailing address for all House members:

The Honorable _____
PA House of Representatives
House Box 202020
Harrisburg PA 17120-2020

Senate Education Committee members & District number

James Rhoades - 29	Vincent Hughes - 07
Harold F. Mowery - 31	Jeffrey Piccola - 15
Jane Earll - 49	Timothy Murphy - 37
Joseph Conti - 10	Allen Kukovich - 39
Allyson Schwartz - 04	Gerald LaValle - 47

Mailing address for Senate members:

The Honorable _____
Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 2030**
Harrisburg PA 17120-30**

(** insert 2 digit district number)

The Honorable _____
PA House of Representatives
House Box 202020
Harrisburg PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative _____

I am writing to urge you to support the Department of Education's proposed Standards for Teaching Science as revised by the State Board of Education at its July 12, 2001 meeting.

The revisions made by the Board eliminate the confusion created by the previous language, which would have permitted the teaching of creationism as science. Including religious stories of creationism in science class would erode the value of science education and violate freedom of religion as guaranteed in both the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions. Moreover, religious ideas about the origin and development of life are diverse and contradictory. It could be painful and troubling for children to have their religious beliefs subjected to scientific scrutiny.

I appreciate your support of high standards in education and of freedom of religion.

Sincerely,

The Honorable _____
Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 2030_____
Harrisburg PA 17120-30_____

Dear Senator _____,

I am writing to urge you to support the Department of Education's proposed Standards for Teaching Science as revised by the State Board of Education at its July 12, 2001 meeting.

The revisions made by the Board eliminate the confusion created by the previous language, which would have permitted the teaching of creationism as science. Including religious stories of creationism in science class would erode the value of science education and violate freedom of religion as guaranteed in both the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions. Moreover, religious ideas about the origin and development of life are diverse and contradictory. It could be painful and troubling for children to have their religious beliefs subjected to scientific scrutiny.

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