

March 4, 2024

Dear Friends,

I oppose HB 1583. It allows no discretion when it comes to selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books in the education of our most tender treasure that we have in our State. Our children.

All of life is about choices. About what we watch, what we say, what we eat. Those of us with children and grandchildren teach our children values that will help them to have a better life and grow to be caring, intelligent and thoughtful adults. The children who do not have this input suffer because they are tossed around mentally without a firm foundation to base their life decisions on. They often end up depressed or angry.

Parents NEED to have a say in what goes into their child's heart and mind. If we eat bad food our bodies get sick, out of shape, flabby. It is the same with our heart and minds. If we put trash in, then our minds are not healthy, we don't know how to think rightly. Children can get tangled up in mental issues they do not have a firm foundation of values. A child is impressionable and needs parental guidance as they mature. Parents birthed the child and so they deserve the right to decide what their children will learn for their mental health, spiritual health and physical health. Parents should be able to filter the educational material.

This is a parents right, not an educators right. Parents raise the children, not the State.

Thank you. Please vote NO on HB 1583.

With concern,

Holly V. Monroe