
From: Jim Pound
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:45 AM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: FW: HB 30

Please add to packet.

Thanks

Jim

From: Rep. Wes Keller
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 10:17 AM
To: Jim Pound
Subject: FW: HB 30

From: Brandon Wall
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 1:46 AM
Subject: HB 30

Every time that I see Representative Keller, I make sure to tell him how much I appreciate his introduction of bills relating to teaching the Constitution and Civics. I've been truly devastated by the lack of attention and time spent teaching our kids how our system of government works.

Not to be a doomsayer, but our State and our Republic are in serious jeopardy because of the lack of knowledge that my generation has of the Constitution and Civics. Based on what is now being taught in schools (or not taught), my children's generation is going to be far worse off.

Civics education should be taught early and often. It is a curriculum that should empower students to the realization that citizens are in control of government and to know how that government works.

I understand that it is unusual for the legislature to dictate curriculum, a job normally delegated to the Board of Education, but this is an important one.

I also hear the argument that the constitution is covered in US History. Well yes, it receives a cursory glance, but not the full attention that it deserves. I would argue that teaching US History without a base understanding of the Constitution and Civics is similar to teaching physics without a base understanding of higher math. So much of US History can be traced back to the ideas in our founding documents or the ideas that were left out.

I've put an example of what I'm talking about below my signature line. This is by far my favorite quote from any speech ever - I still can't read it without getting goosebumps. But without a good understanding of the ideology behind our founding documents, this quote loses the historical reference that the speaker intended it to have.

Thanks for the consideration,

Brandon Wall
Wasilla, AK

"In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.