

Rhode Island State Legislature  
House Committee on Education

March 28, 2023

Re: Testimony in Opposition to House bill Number  
H5739 titled AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Dear Rep. McNamara, Chair, and members of the House Education Committee:

I am Mary Alice Smith from Newport, House District 75.

I oppose H5739 titled AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM.

A strong partnership between Rhode Island parents, schools, and youth is important to ensuring all students can learn in a safe, supportive and welcoming environment. But a slate of bills such as this, modeled on out-of-state legislation, threatens to disrupt that partnership and target students, particularly LGBTQ+ people, people of color, and other historically marginalized identities.

The Rhode Island legislature should resist all these dangerous attacks and oppose harmful legislation.

H5739 masquerades as protecting civil rights when, in fact, it promotes censorship of curriculum or discussion in schools in ways that would be unworkable for teachers and severely limit students' ability to learn the richness and complexity of American history, or to learn about or discuss topics relating to LGBTQ+ people, people of color, and other historically marginalized identities.

I urge you to vote against bill H5739.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify against bill H5739.

Sincerely,

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