

Miguel Sanchez
Councilor - Ward 6

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COMMITTEES

Finance
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March 28, 2023

The Honorable Representative Joseph M. McNamara
Chair of the House Education Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Opposition for H 5739, An Act Relating to Education - Curriculum

Dear Chair McNamara and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bills H 5739, An Act Relating to Education – Curriculum, which is up for consideration by the House Education Committee.

The provisions of this bill are deeply concerning and would have a harmful impact on the education of Rhode Island students. The bill seeks to limit the discussion of race, ethnicity, gender, and religion in Rhode Island schools, prohibiting educators from using race and gender stereotypes and banning the presentation of historical events and figures in a way that acknowledges oppression and victimization. This not only hinders students' ability to understand and engage with the complex realities of our world, but it also sends a message that their experiences and identities are not valued or important.

Furthermore, the bill seeks to promote a narrow and restrictive view of academic excellence, which does not allow for the critical exploration of diverse perspectives and ideas. This type of education is limiting and does not prepare students for the complex and diverse world they will enter upon graduation.

I urge you to reject this bill and instead support policies that promote inclusivity, diversity, and critical thinking in our schools.

Thank you for your consideration,

Handwritten signature of Miguel Sanchez in black ink.

Miguel Sanchez
Majority Whip
Councilor – Ward 6

Handwritten signature of Shelley Peterson in black ink.

Shelley Peterson
Councilwoman – Ward 14