

Lisa Cataldi

From: careohleen@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 2:42 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill No. 5859

House Education Committee
Room 101 - State House
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St, Providence, RI 02903
3/38/2023

Testimony in Support of/Opposition to House Bill No. 5859

Dear Chairperson McNamara and members of the House Education Committee:

I am Caroline Dyhrberg, and I am a voting resident of Providence and House District 8.

I oppose House bill 5859, titled “An Act Relating to Education – School Committees and Superintendents”.

I oppose bill 5859 because although it claims to center truth and equality in how we educate our students, we must ask ourselves, whose truth are we telling? By posing slave owners and enslaved people’s stories on a level playing field, we are committing a gross misrepresentation of history. We know based on expert historians, like those who authored the 1619 project, that history has never shown equal treatment to those of different races, genders, abilities, and more. It is nothing more than complete erasure to teach students that this was not the case. This bill is a disservice to our ancestors, and it will absolutely disservice all of our future generations.

For these reasons, I urge you all to vote against bill 5859.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak against bill 5859.

Sincerely,

Caroline Dyhrberg

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Providence, RI
House District 8