



House Bill 1485: Creationism Through the Backdoor Would Force Public Schools to Include Discredited, Creationist-Inspired Criticisms of Evolution in Texas Science Classrooms

HB 1485 by state Rep. Valoree Swanson, R-Spring, would bar the Texas State Board of Education, school districts, school principals and other public school officials from prohibiting teachers from presenting to students the “strengths and weaknesses” of evolution and climate change.

In short, this bill would give license to teachers who want to bring junk science arguments into the classroom, and school administrators would be powerless to stop them.

HB 1485 would legitimize academic fraud

- This bill would force school administrators to allow arguments that have been rejected by the science community. Public schools should not be required to support, financially or otherwise, teaching junk science attacking evolution and climate change.
- Texas students deserve a 21st-century science education that prepares them for college and the jobs of the future.
- The bill purports to be about “academic freedom” for teachers, but in reality it would protect and even encourage academic fraud.
- School administrators should not be required to look the other way when instructors distort mainstream science and research.
- This isn’t an “academic freedom” issue. It’s about ensuring Texas students learn the best science in their classes, not the personal opinions or ideology of teachers.