



February 25th, 2023

Dear House/Senate Judiciary Committee

I am a Rhode Island voter writing in opposition to [H5047](#)/ [S391](#) / [H5688](#)/ [S0414](#)/ [S0179](#)/ [S0186](#)

To save the committee time, let me just say that there is no way to educate those who want to force their beliefs onto others, as we see in these hateful anti abortion, and anti trans bills.

I don't like many things that public schools teach our kids. In grade school we are taught to glorify our founding fathers who were rapists, murders and slave owners. We still lie to grade school children with the "Columbus Discovered America" folktale. Not only did Columbus not discover America, he was one of the most horrific slave traders who would send indigenous people out to find gold. When they failed to find gold he would cut their arms off. He also brought syphilis back to the UK. We were told that Rosa Park was just tired that day on the bus, and they didn't tell us that 50k people didn't take a bus in Montgomery AL, for a year.

These power struggles over religious beliefs in schools are now causing books to be censored. I recently read that they also want to ban books on climate change. It sounds like they don't want the next generation to learn about things that are based in reality.

Religion has no place in school. This is why we have private religious schools. Public schools need to focus on science and real education, and matters of family beliefs and religion need to be taught at home and in Church.

For the reasons I listed above, please vote NO on [H5047](#)/ [S391](#) / [H5688](#)/ [S0414](#)/ [S0179](#)/ [S0186](#)

Sincerely,

Bella Robinson, Executive director COYOTE RI
(401) 525-8757
43 Old Carriage Rd West Warwick, RI 02893