

The Honorable Jack Scott, Chairman  
Senate Education Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2083  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1056 (Chu)

Dear Chairman Scott:

I respectfully request that your committee oppose AB 1056 (Chu), which is a pilot program to integrate instruction on "tolerance" into social studies curriculum frameworks.

Violence toward any person based on his or her personal characteristic is wrong and there are criminal statutes to ensure harm against persons will be punished. All people should be afforded common courtesy; however, the definition of tolerance, formerly relating to courtesy, has changed during recent years such that individuals are not merely expected to act with kindness toward others, but to accept all their differences, particularly those involving alternative sexual behaviors, as normal and equal in all ways. Despite the bill's attempt at defining the term, a "tolerance" curriculum that includes homosexuality, bisexuality, transgenderism and other such behaviors included in "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" is unacceptable to most parents.

In addition, this proposed curriculum would divert important class time for non-academic purposes. Teachers are rightly concerned that there is already insufficient time to teach required subject matter. California schools continue to struggle with high remediation rates. In 2004, only 43 percent of college freshmen were fully proficient in both English and math. Rather than add another non-academic curriculum (and a questionable one at that), it would seem our schools should focus instead on increasing their emphasis on academics.

Finally, most parents would object to their children being taught about sexual behaviors in the classroom and that they are all morally equivalent. These moral issues and the acceptance of behaviors as normal or "right" are the domain of the family, not the schools.

Again, please oppose AB 1056.

Sincerely,