

I hear by testify in favor of SB324. In December 2015 while having lunch with my daughter who is a sophomore at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School , USD512 I discovered that the "Christmas" gift exchange had been changed from Secret Santa to Secret Snowflake.

I thought that if they'd removed Santa they may have removed other things too.

I contacted the director of Curriculum Dr. Ed Streich and was informed that the district "as not to offend anyone" had decided to remove all mention of Christmas and its meaning from the district. Dr. Streich also mentioned the "Establishment Clause" of the U.S. Constitution as the reasoning for this decision. Christmas and its true meaning, the birth of Christ has been a part of public schools in this country for hundreds of years and I don't think it should be removed because a small minority may be offended by it.

SB324 would stop the removal of the foundation of which this country was built on.

Mark D. Ellis
10805 W 70th Ter
Shawnee, KS 66203
913-744-5991