



Mark Desetti
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Senate Education Committee
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Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 324 with you today.

We oppose this bill for the simple reason that we believe it restricts instruction on the history of traditional winter celebrations.

As written, the bill says that such instruction, if it is to be available, shall be a part of the history curriculum.

Today, such lessons are taught in other areas of the curriculum. For example, a comparative religions class is not part of the history curriculum. Music teachers who provide such instruction when preparing for winter performances are not part of the history curriculum. Elementary teachers often utilize literature related to traditional winter celebrations as part of their language arts instruction.

Would passage of this bill – which specifically places such instruction within the history curriculum – preclude instruction outside of the history curriculum?

We believe passage of this bill would create more confusion and be interpreted as a significant restriction on how teachers might integrate instruction on traditional winter celebrations in their classrooms.