



Mark Desetti
House Bill 2573
House Education Committee
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Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to House Bill 2573.

We have to wonder what anecdote led to the drafting of this bill. Is there evidence that young people by and large don't understand or learn the lessons in their civics, history, or government classes? Perhaps the bill was crafted after watching Jimmy Kimmel interviewing people along Hollywood Boulevard.

We wonder why we are now singling out young people with the assumption that they know nothing about civics, history, and government. With the number of elected officials across the nation finding themselves in hot water for ethical violations, misrepresentations of American history, racist comments, and even violations of law, perhaps we should require every candidate for elected office to pass such a test.

How about first responders? It would be nice to know that every police officer demonstrated an understanding of constitutional rights. It would perhaps be a good idea to ensure that every man or woman enlisting in our armed services has also mastered the lessons of civics, history, and government.

Some people don't learn those lessons. Others may have learned them at one time but can no longer bring all of them to mind. I am reminded of the many people who took high school Spanish and, ten years later, can only recall "Donde está la biblioteca?" We do see many people on Jimmy Kimmel's show who don't seem to know much. But how many people does Jimmy talk to before landing on the few that make his point?

Our students are taking civics, history, and government classes in our high schools. They are subjected to tests in those classes and, if they pass those tests, they get credit for the class. If they don't pass, they fail the class and must take it again in order to get enough credits to graduate.

This bill is entirely unnecessary, and we would ask the committee to not pass it.