



February 2, 2022

Senator Wilton Simpson, simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Debbie Mayfield, mayfield.debbie.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Lauren Book, book.lauren.web@flsenate.gov
The Honorable Chris Sprowls, Chris.Sprows@myfloridahouse.gov
The Honorable Michael Grant, Michael.Grant@myfloridahouse.gov
The Honorable Evan Jenne, Evan.Jenne@myfloridahouse.gov

Dear Senator Wilton Simpson, Senator Debbie Mayfield, Senator Lauren Book,
Honorable Chris Sprowls, Honorable Michael Grant, and Honorable Evan Jenne,

I am writing on behalf of the American Sociological Association, the national professional association for sociologists and others who are interested in sociology. Our members include students, scholars and teachers working in a full range of educational institutions as well as people employed in government agencies and nonprofit and private sector organizations, including in the State of Florida.

As educators and scholars of inequality in the United States, we strongly oppose [CS/HB 1557](#) and [SB 1834](#) and urge you to vote against this effort to limit the freedom of teachers in your state to deploy their professional expertise in the classroom. In considering these “Parental Rights in Education” bills, we ask you to bear in mind that this effort will be detrimental to the social, emotional, and physical wellbeing of students in Florida, especially those who are members of the LGBTQ community. Social scientists have shown that efforts to acknowledge the lives and experiences of LGBTQ students improve their sense of belonging and safety at school, reduce suicidality and substance use, and promote academic achievement.

The American Sociological Association encourages you to oppose the “Parental Rights in Education” bill and instead entrust professional educators to make thoughtful decisions about curriculum and course content that is inclusive of the range of human experience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cecilia Menjivar'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cecilia Menjívar, President