

Submitter: Gordon Fulks PhD Physics
On Behalf Of:
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Measure: SB854

Children should be taught how to think, NOT what to think.

Science is all about critical thinking. Children need to learn to think like a scientist. If they are instead taught political or religious doctrine as science, they will never understand the thought processes that underpin the modern world. And they will never become scientists. Scientists have to be questioning and skeptical of all theories, accepting what can be actually verified with real evidence. That is why Albert Einstein insisted that he not be awarded the Nobel Prize for his Theory of Relativity, until there was good solid evidence that it was true. That took many years to obtain, and even then he was awarded the Nobel Prize primarily for his explanation of the Photoelectric Effect in case Relativity proved incorrect.

Mankind made the leap from political and religious doctrine to solid science less than 500 years ago. The first scientific society, the British Royal Society took as its motto "Nullius in Verba," meaning "Take no one's word for it." That expressed the desire of the Fellows to avoid the domination of authority and to make judgements based on an appeal to facts determined by experiments. It cannot be over-emphasized the GIANT LEAP in human thinking this involved. It made science possible.

Previously, individual scientists like Galileo were hauled in front of tribunals like the Inquisition and ordered to cease and desist talking about the moons of Jupiter. The religious and political doctrine of the early 1600s did not permit more than seven wanderers in the night sky, corresponding to the seven days of the week. Jupiter alone has more moons than that. Galileo could see them with his telescope.

Now too many want to regress to the Dark Ages, in an effort to impose climate doctrine. We do so at our peril. Oregon's next generation of scientists needs to understand the fundamentals of the Scientific Method, not the latest political dogma, dressed up as "science."

Please give Oregon's children a chance to excel at science by insisting that they learn how to think like a scientist. Forcing apocalyptic "science" on them is horribly misguided and will perpetuate Oregon's reputation as very backward in real science.

If you want your children to grow up to be scientists, teach them that science has nothing to do with politics or religion. Real scientists can be Democrats or Republicans, Christians or Jews, because they adhere to the Scientific Method and keep their science separate from their politics and religion.

Don't turn our schools into political/religious indoctrination centers. Reject SB 854

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