

In regards to SB1098, I am here to advocate for the vital principle of **local** control over our school boards and to emphasize the importance of allowing our communities to shape the educational experiences of our children. Education is not just a matter of academic instruction; it is a reflection of our values, our culture, and our shared vision for the future.

Local school boards serve as a crucial link between our communities and our educational institutions, and they must have the freedom to choose curricula that align with the values embraced by the families they serve. As Thomas Jefferson wisely stated, “The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.” Education plays a pivotal role in this care, and it must be tailored to the specific needs and beliefs of our local communities.

Benjamin Franklin also recognized the importance of local involvement in education when he remarked, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” Our communities are best positioned to understand what knowledge our children need to thrive. By empowering local school boards to select content and curriculum, we ensure that our children receive an education that reflects our community’s ideals and aspirations.

Moreover, John Adams emphasized that “the people are the only legitimate fountain of power.” This principle underscores the necessity of community involvement in the decision-making processes of our schools. When local stakeholders—parents, teachers, and community members—are actively engaged in shaping educational policies, we foster a sense of ownership and accountability that is critical to the success of our schools.

Let us not forget that education is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. Each community has unique values and priorities, and it is essential that we allow local voices to guide the educational journey of our children. By resisting state control over our school boards, we uphold the foundational belief that the best decisions about education are made closest to home.

In conclusion, **I urge you to vote against SB1098**. Instead, we need supportive legislation to ensure the autonomy of local school boards in selecting curricula that reflect our community’s values. Let us empower our local educators and leaders to create an educational environment that resonates with the families they serve, ensuring a brighter future for our children.

Thank you.