

My name is Doug Morgan.

I am the father of a 12 & 8-year-old that attend public schools in Plano, Texas.

I am speaking in favor of Bill 3678.

This Bill is crucial to help ensure that our children, who attend public schools in Texas, do not grow-up feeling that it is inappropriate to share a religious viewpoint expression in public. Please make no mistake; this is indeed what is happening far too often today. This Bill is also critical to provide the needed guiding principles to our public school districts' teachers, administrators, and trustees to help them navigate in these waters and make the right choices.

Please allow me to provide just a few examples regarding the censorship of my families' religious expressions by the public schools of Plano, Texas during the Christmas Season, which sadly is now known as the "Winter Break" Season by Texas public schools.

- a. My son, while attending a student council meeting, wrote cards to nursing home residents. He was told to write "Happy Holidays" versus writing "Merry Christmas".
- b. Decorations, foods, and supplies that parents donate for the "Winter Break" party
 - i. Religious symbols were banned from decorations (only secular winter symbols such as snowflakes, snowpeople, etc . . . were allowed)
 1. Nativity Scenes were banned
 2. References to the birth of Jesus were banned
 3. Even references to Jesus being the reason for the season were banned
 - ii. Secular symbols associated with Christmas were banned
 1. Christmas trees were banned
 2. Clothespin crafts of a reindeer were banned from having a red pompom nose.
 3. Even reindeer cookies were banned if they had a red nose
 - iii. Colors that are associated with Christmas were not allowed on plates and napkins
 1. Red napkins and plates were banned
 2. Green napkins and plates were banned
 3. Red and green plaid napkins and plates were banned
- c. Goodie bags that children exchange with one another at the party
 - i. Pokemon items in goodie bags were allowed
 - ii. Harry Potter items in goodie bags were allowed
 - iii. However, goodie bags including a candy cane pen with "The Legend of the Candy" were banned. When our son was banned from passing out the bags to his classmates, we asked if we could pass them out to other parents attending the Party and this, also, was banned.