

## Members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Ray Bennett and I strongly urge you to oppose and reject SB 374. This bill attempts to provide a solution for the alarming behavioral tendencies of a select number of school age children in our communities, but it fails to recognize root causes of many behavioral problems evidenced in our school system today.

We were all shocked by the tragedy in Newtown, and would all desire to prevent another tragedy. In seeking answers to what may have caused Adam Lanza to commit such horrific acts, the focus has been on surface problems, failing to go beyond to root causes of damaging actions and harmful habits. Robert Winthrop, Speaker of the U.S. House observed in 1852: “Men, in a word, must necessarily be controlled either by a power within them or by a power without them; either by the Word of God or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible or by the bayonet.”

Our country has been conducting a Great Experiment of education without God, the Bible or religious principles since 1963. Since that year, a tremendous lack of morality, restraint and respect for law has been increasing. Children have been taught that they are products of random chance and the strong must prevail over the weak, and that there is no standard of right or wrong. Why then are we shocked at such horrific acts? The truth of Scripture has sound solutions to the troubling tendencies we see in our schools today. “By the fear of the Lord, men depart from evil.”

The Bible gives guidance to fathers – “Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Nurture and admonition is a balance of love and discipline. Our society is full of children demonstrating the damaging effects of those who receive an unbalanced portion of one without the balance of the other.

SB 374 will not provide the solutions that we need because it is fundamentally flawed in its assumption that tragedies can be prevented by enacting a new law. In the sentiment of founding father Benjamin Rush, it is lamentable that “...we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government; that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible.”

I urge you to reject SB 374.

Ray Bennett

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***"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)***