

Members of the Public Health Committee,

I strongly urge you to oppose and reject SB 374. This bill does not address the real problem we face today and will bring negative consequences if pursued. In a brochure produced by the Institute of Connecticut History and sponsored by the Noah Webster House, the statement is made that Connecticut's history is a religious history. Connecticut's founders were spiritual men who centered their lives around God and His Word.

The first person mentioned is Thomas Hooker – primary author of the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. The preamble states “Well knowing when a people are gathered together the word of God requires, that to maintain the peace and union of such a people, there should be an orderly and decent government established according to God.”

Jonathan Edwards was influential in changing the behavior of many in the American colonies. His landmark sermon titled “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” primarily focused on the truth that God's hand is a merciful hand, and as a famous Bible verse in the book of Lamentations states, “It is of the Lord's mercy that we are not consumed.” God delays His necessary judgment of sin to give opportunity for repentance and change of behavior.

Another Connecticut Founding Father, Noah Webster, wrote, “All miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.”

Fanny Crosby, the greatest hymn writer in history is buried in Bridgeport, CT. This Connecticut resident wrote over 8,000 hymns, was the first woman to speak before Congress, knew 22 U.S. presidents and was a close friend to four of them. In one of her best known hymns, Fanny explains the source for the life of true changed behavior.

To God be the glory, great things He hath done;
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

As we learn from Connecticut history and teach these truths to our children, we give them opportunity to apply these principles to their lives. Such knowledge will lead our children to become a benefit and blessing to their communities, not a sorrow, menace or burden.

The Biblical book of Proverbs is written as a manual of instruction in wisdom to young men. Had Adam Lanza read and embraced the counsel of Scripture, he would have sought to become a wise son, bringing joy to his family rather than grief.

Since Connecticut is still revolutionary, maybe we could lead the nation and put the Bible back in schools.

SB 374 is not the solution that we need and I urge you to reject this bill.