

We are historians against HB 3979 & SB 2202.

Students have a right to learn an accurate account of history, including the darkest parts of our history and the long efforts for freedom and social justice. A truthful accounting of history will allow students to learn the lessons of the past to help build a more equal and inclusive future.

This legislation is also detrimental for teachers and students in more than one way.

This bill places history and civics teachers in a professionally compromising position in the classroom. It is impossible to teach the history of the United States without discussing race, gender, religion, or injustice. That inaccurate account of history would not meet professional standards set by professional historical associations like the Organization of American Historians or the American Historical Association. That version of history would not meet the State Board of Education curriculum standards set by Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Moreover, mandating how topics like slavery must be taught is an overreach of the legislature.

Removing lessons that teach students how ideas of race and gender shaped our laws and policies will academically disadvantage students in Texas. They will not be prepared to take Advanced Placement exams for college credit. They will not have the basic foundation in US history or the analytical skills required for students to succeed in colleges and universities. This bill might even prohibit students from taking Dual Enrollment courses taught by high school instructors that accurately teach the history of the United States. Moreover, students will be ill-equipped to have conversations in daily life about accurate history or controversial topics.

Supporters of these bills are using inflammatory language. Today teachers that follow guidelines outlined by professional organizations and the Texas State Board of Education are being dangerously misrepresented as “indoctrinating” students. These baseless accusations sow public distrust of our teachers and of public education more generally. It also makes the work of teachers of history, civics, Mexican American studies, and African American studies more difficult and they may even be targeted with harassment or worse.

Senators, we urge you to show your support for Texas teachers, ensure that our students will be academically prepared to succeed in higher education and in life, and vote no for HB 3979 and SB 2202.

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| 2. Trinidad Gonzales | Refusing to Forget |
| 3. Monica Muñoz Martinez | University of Texas at Austin |
| 4. Daina Ramey Berry | University of Texas at Austin |
| 5. Joan Neuberger | University of Texas at Austin |
| 6. John Mckiernan-Gonzalez | Texas State University |
| 7. Dr. Santiago Piñón | Texas Christian University |
| 8. Cassandra Rincones | Lone Star College |
| 9. Felipe Hinojosa | Texas A&M University |

10. John Morán González University of Texas at Austin
11. Sonia Hernandez Texas A&M University & concerned Texan voter
12. Miguel A. Levario Texas Tech University
13. Aaron Wilson South Texas College
14. Lucero Saldaña San Antonio College
15. Edward Avila Independent Scholar
16. Dr. Samantha Rodriguez Houston Community College
17. Santiago Torres Jr, Graduate Assistant
18. Orlando Lara Co-Founder, Ethnic Studies Network of Texas
19. Juan Carmona Donna High School
20. Mark R. Murray Government Professor
21. Laura Leal University of Texas Rio Grande, Edinburg
22. Shine Trabucco University of Houston, PhD student
23. Laura Leal University of Texas Rio Grande, Edinburg
24. Erina Duganne Associate Professor, Texas State University
25. Carlos Cantu Independent Researcher
26. William S. Bush Texas A&M University-San Antonio
27. Annie Liss South Texas College
28. Guadalupe S San Miguel University of Houston
29. Max Krochmal Texas Christian University
30. Gene Thomas Morales Texas A&M University-San Antonio
31. Carlyn Jorgensen South Texas College
32. Dr. Michelle Tovar Holocaust Museum Houston
33. Sylvia Flores South Texas College
34. Armando C. Alonzo Texas A&M University
35. Liliana Saldana University of Texas San Antonio
36. Kenyon Zimmer University of Texas Arlington
37. Dr. Jeanelle Hope Texas Christian University
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41. Flannery Burke Saint Louis University
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43. Fidel Rodriguez South Texas College
44. Erica Buchberger UTRGV
45. Dr. Gabriel Huddleston Texas Christian University
46. Dr. Jaclyn Miller South Texas College
47. Kimberly Montoya teacher
48. Juan Manuel Galvan Rodriguez Lone Star College
49. Melissa Morin Teacher
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65. Karl Jacoby Columbia University
66. Christine Evans University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
67. Stephen Pitti Yale University
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69. Stephen D. Allen California State University, Bakersfield
70. Julie Sylva Fort Worth ISD Teaching & Learning Division, Social
71. Carolina Monsivais Historian
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83. Michael D Innis-Jimenez University of Alabama
84. Paul Newcomb University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
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104.	Christine Talbot	University of Northern Colorado
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106.	Lois Rita Helmbold	University of Nevada, Las Vegas (retired)
107.	Brian W. Ogilvie	Professor and Department Chair, Department of History, University of Massachusetts Amherst
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110.	Dr. Will Tchakirides	Smithsonian Institution
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127.	Melisa Ramirez	Independent
128.	Juan Daniel Garcia	Educator
129.	Gerardo A. Velasquez	none
130.	Zach Zarate	None
131.	Irma Zamora	Educator
132.	Victoriano Cano	Pasadena ISD
133.	Lorena Patterson	Educator
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