

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT H. 4799

Quality education is the key to strengthening our communities, our economy, and our democracy.

We need to invest in creating and supporting a public school system that provides a high-quality education that is inclusive, diverse, and free from discrimination. But historically—during times of national stress, real or imagined—First Amendment and Equal Protection rights come under enormous pressure.

H. 4799 IMPOSES BURDENSOME OBLIGATIONS ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

A FEW EXAMPLES:

- The bill forces public schools to maintain links on their websites that contain “a detailed list of instructional materials and curricula” including “title, author, creator, and publisher” of any book, article, or webpage, among other publications. If a school fails to update this information within just 5 days of the beginning of the course funding will be withheld.
- The bill prevents schools from awarding grades or course credit for student work or service learning with organizations engaged in social or public policy advocacy.
- If a South Carolina public school receives a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for civics or history education, within just 30 days of the award, the school must produce a report to the state detailing a complete list of the curricula and instructional materials to be used for the state’s approval, among other information.

H. 4799 BANS CERTAIN MATERIALS AND CONCEPTS.

A FEW EXAMPLES:

- The bill prohibits public schools and institutions of higher learning from introducing a course that educates students on certain ideas, including the concept of equity being superior to equality and a description of slavery and racism as “anything other than deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to, the authentic founding principles of the U.S.”
- The bill bans any instruction on any claims, views, or opinions presented in the 1619 Project and threatens to withhold millions of dollars in state funding for each class found to be in violation of the law.
- The bill may prohibit South Carolina businesses that receive public funds from providing employees with training on unconscious bias. Entities that receive money from the General Assembly and provide training on unconscious bias may have to return their funds and be precluded from receiving funds for an additional ten fiscal years.
- The bill bans teachers and students from being compelled to discuss current events or widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs, and forbids any flag or banner that promotes social or political causes to be displayed on buildings or property owned or operated by a school district.
- The bill prohibits teachers and students from being compelled to acknowledge systemic racism, non-binary genders, or any other concept that goes against a sincerely held religious or philosophical conviction.

Defend South Carolina educators, students, and truth in education by voting NO on H. 4799.