

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY SENATORS BOUIE, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, DUPLESSIS, FIELDS, HARRIS,
JACKSON-ANDREWS, LUNEAU, PRICE, JENKINS AND CARTER

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prohibit the use of "edu-tainment" children videos that are discriminatory and anti-Semitic as educational tools in classrooms.

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prohibit use of "edu-tainment" children videos that are discriminatory and anti-Semitic as educational tools in classrooms.

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at a statewide teacher conference, the state Superintendent of Education, Cade Brumley, announced his endorsement that teachers can show student videos by PragerU, a right-wing media nonprofit that produces "pro-America" content; and

WHEREAS, in his announcement, the superintendent said that "PragerU's videos align with the state's new social studies standards . . .", which he calls the "Freedom Framework"; and

WHEREAS, the superintendent also stated that "Louisiana was the first state to adopt new, rigorous social studies standards that teach students about American exceptionalism and our quest for a more perfect union", according to a statement released by PragerU. "This partnership will provide teachers with additional resources to help bring our 'Freedom Framework' to life"; and

WHEREAS, PragerU said its partnership with Louisiana is "more expansive" than in other states, adding that Louisiana's education department approved an "extensive list" of

1 PragerU videos for social studies; and

2 WHEREAS, educators, legislators, historians, and political scientists have criticized
3 PragerU's video for content promoting conservative viewpoints on various political,
4 economic, and sociological topics containing misleading or inaccurate claims about slavery
5 and racism in the United States, immigration, and the history of fascism; and

6 WHEREAS, PragerU has published videos critical of other faiths, including "Where
7 Are the Moderate Muslims?" and "Born to Hate Jews"; and

8 WHEREAS, content on the PragerU Kids YouTube channel, which has received
9 backlash, includes a video depicting a cartoon Christopher Columbus saying slavery wasn't
10 an issue during his time period because of its widespread use and another describing George
11 Floyd as a "Black man who resisted arrest"; and

12 WHEREAS, PragerU's videos for students in grades kindergarten through twelve
13 promotes a conservative world view; for example, a book called "*Sofia Survives the Border*"
14 for middle and high schoolers teaches students "why strong borders are essential for keeping
15 communities safe and prosperous"; and

16 WHEREAS, a video for grades six through twelve called "Los Angeles: Mateo Backs
17 the Blue" explores "how the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and anti-police sentiment
18 affected crime, families, and small businesses in American cities"; and

19 WHEREAS, when PragerU received blowback from educators and historians after
20 being granted approval to show videos to students in kindergarten through sixth grade in
21 public schools in Florida, PragerU said that its content pushes back against what it calls
22 "woke agendas infiltrating classrooms"; and

23 WHEREAS, in its 2023 annual report, PragerU stated that it is dedicated to "Biblical
24 values, protecting children's innocence, celebrating America's exceptional history, civic
25 responsibility, rejecting woke culture, and defending free speech"; and

26 WHEREAS, the unique things to understand about PragerU is that there is no bid
27 process for the videos, it is not a traditional vendor that requires payment, it is not an
28 accredited university, it does not have creators with a vast education background, and its
29 website states what its intention is, which is purely for indoctrination, and says it is
30 specifically for conservative values; and

1 WHEREAS, the Preamble to Art. VIII of the Constitution of Louisiana states: "[t]he
 2 goal of the public educational system is to provide learning environments and experiences,
 3 at all stages of human development, that are humane, just, and designed to promote
 4 excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop
 5 to his full potential".

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
 7 does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Education and the State Board
 8 of Elementary and Secondary Education to prohibit use of "edu-tainment" children videos
 9 that are discriminatory and anti-Semitic as educational tools in classrooms.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
 11 state superintendent of education and the president of the State Board of Elementary and
 12 Secondary Education.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michael Bell.

DIGEST

SR 152 Original

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Bouie

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