

Monte Benham – Sponsor I-1058

5312 W Tucannon Ave - Kennewick, WA - www.WeThePeopleOfWA.org - 509 396-7215

March 22, 2010

To: Kennewick School Board: Heather Kintzley, Dawn Adams, Kathy White, Lynn Fielding, Wendy London, with copy to Dave Bond Superintendent

Subject: I-1058

I-1058 states (New Section Sec 2):

“Our schools are teaching the mechanics of government more adequately than they are teaching the foundation and purpose of government. They teach about human rights, but most students do not comprehend the source of human rights and the purpose of government as identified in the Declaration of Independence and the Washington state Constitution. Schools are placing less emphasis on social studies and there are no WASL (the High School Proficiency Exam) questions on civics, government, or history.”

On February 26, 2010 Superintendent Dave Bond wrote you a letter giving his reasons for opposing I-1058. The letter was delivered to me at your March 10th meeting. He believes the KSD already teaches The Declaration of Independence, The United States Constitution and the Washington State Constitution, Washington’s first inaugural address and his farewell address, and Lincoln’s inaugural address, and Gettysburg address.

The superintendent misrepresented I-1058 as indicated in the attached documents.

- Evidence that the Kennewick School District is not Adequately Teaching the Founding Principles of Government
- Monte Benham’s Reply to Superintendent Dave Bond’s comments.

George Washington’s farewell address is not contained in the *Magruder’s American Government*, however it is mentioned twice. Washington’s and Lincoln’s inaugural addresses are not even mentioned in the book.

In the middle school book, *Washington in the Pacific Northwest* - Chapter 13, there is a listing of the articles contained in the state constitution along with the preamble. However, there is no explanation of where our rights come from or the purpose of government. There is no evidence that the Washington State Constitution is available for students to read.

I-1058 directs all “local school boards shall ensure that each school conspicuously display copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the United States constitution, and the Washington State Constitution.”

The superintendent is concerned about “local school boards losing the power to choose the curriculum materials” if I-1058 is made state law. This is not true! I-1058 gives the school boards an opportunity to look for curriculum materials that will correct the deficiencies. Those deficiencies are caused, in large part, by The US Department of Education’s “Goals 2000” program which is enforced by state law (SB 6696).

The question is: Will the school board use their power to correct current deficiencies by endorsing I-1058?”

Many candidates for public office and the Benton County Republican Party have endorsed I-1058 and I expect many more to endorse it when they become aware of I-1058 (see www.WeThePeopleOfWA.org). We The People await the Kennewick school boards vote to endorse or reject I-1058.

Sincerely,

Monte Benham