

Press Release. Monte Benham delivered this message to the Kennewick School board at their 5:30 meeting tonight (February 24, 2010). And the Press release was sent to radio, newspaper, and TV stations.

I'm Monte Benham, sponsor of I-1058 and I am here to ask the Kennewick School board to study I-1058 and then announce your intentions to endorse the initiative or present the reason you reject I-1058.

Initiative 1058 will:

Require schools to teach the relationship of the Declaration of Independence to the US and state Constitutions.”

An endorsement means you favor gathering 300,000 signatures so that “We The People” will have the right to debate the initiative with any opposition before a vote is taken on November 2nd.

Refusing to comment on an endorsement will be taken as a “No endorsement”. It will send the message that you oppose Article II of the state constitution which gives “We The People” the right to propose laws independent of the legislature.

You probably wondering why I-1058 is necessary when Washington State already has a law that states:

The study of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Washington shall be a condition prerequisite to graduation from the public and private high schools of this state. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide by rule for the implementation of this section.

I asked The state superintendents office how this law was being implemented since there are no copies of the state constitution in our schools and most people have never seen a copy of the state constitution. Elected officials swear an oath to uphold a document most have never seen, The Washington state Constitution.

The answer given me was:

“I see what you want to know. You want to know what the meaning of the word ‘Study’ is. Well the courts have litigated this and determined that any study constitutes study so we leave it to the teacher to do the right thing”.

Many teachers have never been exposed to the founding principles of our Constitution. Schools do teach about the mechanics of government but not much on the foundation of government.

The grueling truth is that educational philosophers have “hijacked” our educational system by making small incremental changes to erase a knowledge of God from the minds of our children.

Most people are not aware that all state constitutions echo the Declaration of Independence and give thanks to God “or a Supreme Being” for our liberties. As you know some judges have stated that students should not say “under God in the Pledge”

The Kennewick School board is in a unique place in history. You can choose to reject the theory that “hijacked” our national education system and implement the provisions of I-1058. Your decision will send a strong message to the state and the Nation.

All We the People can do is to give the children the opportunity to learn directly from the words of our founding fathers. If teachers try to interject the educational theories that “hijacked” our educational system, we must trust the Children to correct the teachers. Our children should know:

- Where our rights come from
- What the purpose of government is
- And how to protect our constitutional free republic

I ask the Kennewick School board to endorse I-1058 with both words and action. For example children right now could be taught the relationship the Pledge of allegiance to the Declaration of Independence and the preamble of the Washington State constitution.

We need YOUR help if our children are to be given the opportunity to learn directly from the words of our founding fathers.

I ask that God Bless the Kennewick School board and that God bless the United States of America.