

Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - 3:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY ON: All Subjects

Written Testimony

Name (First & Last)	Subject	Manner Testifying	Representing Company/Organization	City	For / Against	Wish to Testify	District #
Joseph Crupper	S 1362	W	self	Pocatello	Against	N	29

Senate Education,

I recommend voting No on SB 1362, or at least recommending it be amended.

I agree that partisan political flags should not be displayed by schools. I also agree that students should keep these flags outside of school property. I am tired of seeing Let's Go Brandon flags in our public schools. Flags that say "Make America Great Again" insight insurrectionist fear into any student who questions the motives of the saying.

Too many things that shouldn't be on flags end up on flags.

I don't think this bill will pass legal muster, however. There aren't many overtly political flags being displayed like the ones I just described. I think we all know that the "partisan" flag this bill is referring to is the Pride flag created by Gilbert Baker in 1978. Not only do I disagree with the designation of this flag as political instead of the truthful designation of the flag as cultural, I do not believe that this bill as written will be applied fairly.

The pride rainbow colors are integrated in many ways that are not specifically "flag" form. Will those items or motifs be banned as well? This bill does not answer that question.

A flag that says "Fuck Joe Biden" on it might be banned, but would a hat with the same message? Is the flag the problem, or the message?

I recommend writing a better bill if you want to spend the time limiting a student's right to free speech.

Joseph Crupper

Marianna Cochran	S 1362	W	self	Rathdrum	For	N	3
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With the weighiness on legislators' shoulders of so many profound bills, it's nice to have a slam dunk every once in a while, huh? Make this as easy as it should be. Do Pass.

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Jennifer Attebery	S 1362	W	self	Pocatello	Against	N	29
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Dear committee members,

As a retired educator, I particularly noticed this bill, S1362, as a very strange piece of legislation that seems unnecessary and potentially harmful. As I understand it, the bill would limit the flags that could be displayed on public property to the USA flag and state or other official government or military-related flags. The issue with this bill is, of course, not that one wouldn't want to display the flags listed as allowable. Of course our schools want to display these flags, and they do regularly.

The issue with the bill is the possibility of over-zealous people wanting to harass groups such as school clubs or teachers who may want to or need to use symbols that could be interpreted as "flags." For example, a Republican club might want to display a MAGA symbol that could be interpreted as a flag. A geography teacher has a regular part of the course's content the display of several kinds of national flags. Could these people be harassed with this legislation?

I have to wonder whether this bill is somehow a strange attempt to restrict public speech in public places? If it has that impact, Idaho may be yet again in the courts. I have to say I am very tired of seeing my tax dollars go toward court cases rather than doing good for Idahoans.

I think the best line of action for your committee is to let this bill die in committee. Attempting to add on a long series of exceptions would just create ways in which it could be misused or more successfully challenged.

Nissa Nagel	S 1362	W	self	Boise	Against	N	19
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I am against this bill. It adds unnecessary regulation. It should be left up to local control.