

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET, SUITE 7120
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4032

DISTRICT OFFICES
24640 JEFFERSON AVENUE, SUITE 202
MURRIETA, CA 92562
(951) 894-2220

4740 GREEN RIVER ROAD, SUITE 212
CORONA, CA 92878
(951) 280-1620

777 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY, SUITE 200-12
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262
(760) 422-6684

California State Senate

SENATOR
KELLY SEYARTO
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE
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NATURAL RESOURCES
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APPROPRIATIONS
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HOUSING
TRANSPORTATION

September 21, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Veto Request – Assembly Bill 1078

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Assembly Bill 1078.

This bill, if implemented, would prohibit local school boards from determining whether textbook or other instructional materials are appropriate on the basis of its inclusion of sexual and racial content.

Local school boards exist by virtue of the fact that community leaders are most familiar with the needs and concerns of the communities they live in. AB-1078 calls into question why school boards should exist at all. This bill would seemingly have the state assign to itself the right and duty to enforce whatever instructional content it pleases. If that becomes reality, then it is pointless to have a school board in place that theoretically has the ability to review and approve content given it is effectively prohibited from doing so in practice.

It is my belief that the same people who support the local school should also have a say in how it functions. That means, they should have real and effective input in what instructional material is provided to their students. I believe it is wrong that this bill proposes the state should punish school districts with content concerns by withholding funding that is paid for by the very same taxpayers expressing their concerns. If enacted, the state would make the mistake of considering itself entitled to, instead of a steward of public funds. It would also punish students for the beliefs of their parents by providing them with less resources towards their education.

I respectfully request that you veto AB-1078, and I thank you for your time to read this letter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (916) 651-4032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Seyarto".

Kelly Seyarto
Senate 32nd District