



March 2, 2017

The Honorable Mike Schulz  
Oklahoma State Senate  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 422  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

The Honorable John Sparks  
Oklahoma State Senate  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 520B  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear President Pro Tempore Schulz and Democratic Leader Sparks,

On behalf of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), I write to respectfully request your opposition to Senate Bill 393. This measure is bad for science, science education, and the future economic health and well being of Oklahoma.

The AIBS is a scientific organization that works to provide decision-makers with vetted information that advances the biological sciences for the benefit of science and society. Our approximately 130 member organizations represent the breadth of the biological sciences and have a combined staff and membership of more than 200,000 scientists and science educators. Among our members are scientists and science educators throughout the state of Oklahoma.

If Senate Bill 393 is enacted, it is our understanding that it would permit teachers to miseducate Oklahoma's students about any topic a teacher deems controversial, and would prevent state and local administrators from intervening. Litigation will almost certainly result if this bill is passed, and that will do little more than cost the state money that could be better used to support teachers and students.

Importantly, there is no scientific controversy about the legitimacy of evolution or global climate change. These scientific concepts have repeatedly been tested and have grown stronger with each evaluation. Any controversy around these concepts is political, not scientific. Moreover, evolution is a core principle that helps to explain biology and informs the development of biology-based products and services, including pharmaceuticals, food, and biotechnology.

As the nation endeavors to prepare our children for good jobs and the capacity for life-long learning, we must work to strengthen our science education system – not weaken it.

Please stand up for Oklahoma's students by opposing passage of Senate Bill 393.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Gropp". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert Gropp, Ph.D.  
Co-Executive Director

cc: Senator Allen  
Senator Bass  
Senator Bergstrom  
Senator Bice  
Senator Boggs  
Senator Brecheen

Senator Brown  
Senator Dahm  
Senator Daniels  
Senator David  
Senator Dossett  
Senator Dugger  
Senator Fields  
Senator Floyd  
Senator Fry  
Senator Griffin  
Senator Holt  
Senator Jech  
Senator Kidd  
Senator Leewright  
Senator Loveless  
Senator Marlatt  
Senator Matthews  
Senator McCortney  
Senator Newberry  
Senator Newhouse  
Senator Paxton  
Senator Pederson  
Senator Pemberton  
Senator Pittman  
Senator Pugh  
Senator Quinn  
Senator Rader  
Senator Scott  
Senator Sharp  
Senator Shaw  
Senator Shortey  
Senator Silk  
Senator Simpson  
Senator Smalley  
Senator Standridge  
Senator Stanislawski  
Senator Sykes  
Senator Thompson  
Senator Treat  
Senator Yen