

Public Testimony

To: NH House Education Policy & Administration

From: Veronica Tomasko-Silva, Esq.

Date: February 2, 2026

RE: LSR Number: **26-2440**

My name is Veronica Tomasko-Silva and I am an attorney, born and raised in Cheshire County. I am a member the New Hampshire Bar Association Civics and Law Outreach Committee. I believe one of the most important things in education is robust civics education and teaching kids the value of community involvement regardless of their political affiliation. This Act does not advance civics education at all. In fact, it jeopardizes the meaningful teaching of the U.S. Constitution, American History, and Civic responsibility all together.

I would like to remind the legislature that we, as Americans, have overcome dark parts of our history by coming together to create a better America for every citizen. We must acknowledge that we have had negative aspects of our past and the past of the greater world that were based on identity.

Are you suggesting that we no longer acknowledge the existence of slavery because it is uncomfortable to learn? Do we ignore Native Reservations, and the trail of tears because it is painful? Are you asking Polish-American, Jewish, Romanian, Italian-American, Irish-American, and many more identities to ignore the Holocaust or their subsequent discrimination when they arrived to America? “Irish need not apply,” is a stain on our American history. What gives us power and hope, is that we, as Americans, changed our minds and perspectives and became a better America because of it.

Three amendments of our Constitution exist today because of the work many Americans did to end slavery. Are those amendments prohibited because they would teach that Black people once did not have the right to vote? As a state of the north that stood against the atrocities of southern slavery, we should be prideful in teaching those amendments because we stood on behalf of a better America.

We all have an identity in some way or another. I am a proud Granite-Stater. I grew up rural, just like many people in this state. I went to schools with students and teachers alike that had views I did not agree with, but that has always made us stronger. Many of my friends today do not share my political beliefs, and they are my best friends on this earth. Robbing anyone with an opposing voice of their ability to speak is the exact opposite of what Charlie Kirk stood for. His voice was stolen, and regardless of party, that is a tragedy, but we cannot silence those of us of us who are still here.