

# Testimony AL State School Board Social Studies Textbooks

## 3.12.26 (2 min.)

Good morning, I'm Becky Gerritson from Eagle Forum.

I want to raise serious concerns about these proposed textbooks. What is most alarming is that the issues I'm about to mention were discovered during a brief and limited review of the materials. If this many problems surfaced so quickly, it raises a troubling question: what else might be in these books that we simply didn't have time to find?

Several examples illustrate the concern.

There appears to be an imbalance in how religions are presented. In a seventh-grade text, Christianity's spread is mainly linked to colonization and conquest, while Islam is described mostly through trade and cultural exchange, Muhammad is described as honest and kind and there is little mention of Islam's military expansion or treatment of conquered peoples. This presents an incomplete and misleading view of history.

Second, we found clear political bias in modern history sections. One eighth-grade text places former President Trump in a section labeled "Threats to Democracy" directly alongside authoritarian leaders such as Kim Jong Un.

An eleventh-grade text discusses the Mueller investigation but omits the key conclusion that no evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia was found. The same book praises political figures such as Stacey Abrams without mentioning significant ethics violations related to campaign finance.

There are also sections on climate change and current events that read more like advocacy than education, presenting complex issues as settled fact and sometimes in ways that can cause students to be anxious and fearful.

We also found where first and second graders are being introduced to topics promoting activism, even highlighting climate protests featuring Greta Thurnberg. Why are we teaching these topics to 7 and 8 year olds?

Again, these are just a few examples from a very short review.

Our students deserve information that is accurate, balanced, and focused on education, not ideology.

Our children will learn from these books for years to come so I respectfully urge the board to delay the vote so the public can hear the specific concerns mentioned today before a final vote is taken.

Thank you.