

DALLAS HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM

IMPORTANT STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO AND THE BOARD CHAIR

The Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum is appalled to learn that a Carroll Independent School District Administrator advised teachers last week to offer books with an “opposing view” on the Holocaust if they have a Holocaust-related book in their classroom.

This direction was given in response to the district’s struggle to comply with a new Texas law (known as HB 3979) that requires teachers who choose to discuss current events or widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy and social affairs to strive to explore the topic from diverse and contending perspectives without giving deference to any one perspective. The district’s response illustrates the dangers of this new legislation - mandating that historical facts be taught alongside an opposing view.

The challenge with legislation limiting educators’ ability to teach historical fact is the question of who decides if an issue is controversial or whether contending perspectives are worthy of instruction. The Holocaust is one of the world’s most well-documented historical events. Our Holocaust Survivors are a living testament to the accuracy of the history we teach at our museum - the deliberate, cruel, and systematic murder of 6 million Jews.

Should the beliefs of Holocaust deniers be provided as “opposing views?” When students learn about slavery, should they also be forced to read accounts that deny the horrors of slavery? The answer to these questions must be a resounding “no!”

We call upon all Texans to speak out against this requirement to present “opposing views” to events and developments based in well-known historical fact. Teachers should not be pushed to present myth, opinion, or bias as equal to the historical record. Our future depends on our youth learning difficult history, so they may build a better future for us all.

The mission of the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum is to teach the history of the Holocaust and advance human rights to combat prejudice, hatred, and indifference. To learn more about the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum and its mission, please visit dhhrm.org.



Mary Pat Higgins
President and CEO



Mark Zilbermann
Board Chair

