

February 7, 2008

To the Members of the Florida Board of Education:

We are writing to request that you not accept the standing language of the new Science Standards offered for your vote at the February 19, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

As a coalition of organizations from across Florida and around the nation, we stand united to bring to your attention our serious concern over the way that the theory of evolution is described in the new Science Standards. Although we applaud the hard work and dedicated service of the team of science professionals who assembled to rewrite Florida's Science Standards, we see a severe lapse in the intellectual integrity of the new wording regarding the basis of the study of biology.

Our concerns are more thoroughly explained in the attached documentation. However the primary point of unease is found in the Life 'Science body of Knowledge' section which starts with the statement "*Evolution is the fundamental concept underlying all of biology and is supported by multiple forms of scientific evidence.*"

It is not the desire or goal of this coalition to advocate for the removal of the theory of evolution from the curriculum. In the same measure, we are not promoting the inclusion of any other theory on the origin of life. We are simply encouraging an accurate and thorough presentation of all the scientific evidence currently available regarding the theory of evolution, both that which supports the theory and that which calls it into question.

So far, 14 local county school boards have passed resolutions requesting that you not accept the new Science Standards as they currently exist. We feel that this further emphasizes the growing awareness and diverse concern about the direction that the new language takes.

We share the desire of the education professionals in Florida to see the state's children receive an excellent science education. It is out of this motivation that we hereby request your consideration of this matter and we thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director
Christian Coalition of Florida
Ocala, FL

Dr. Gary L. Cass
Christian Anti-Defamation Commission

Jerry Chase
Pro-Life Action Ministries

Father Peter Church
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