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PRESS RELEASE

Sen. Cauthorn, Stouffer Demand Schools Pull Propaganda from Classrooms

Says Northeastern Company's Anti-Meat Message Unwelcome in Missouri Schools

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Senators John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, and Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, are calling for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and local school districts to remove all Queue, Inc. MAP testing preparation materials from classrooms. Their test preparation book includes a segment on “Why Be Vegetarian,” that asks students to write a letter to their parents explaining why they decided to become vegetarians and requires students to analyze poems using scare tactics.

“Parents are upset because their children come home from school afraid to eat beef,” said Cauthorn. “This material isn’t education, it’s propaganda. All Missouri schools using this company’s garbage should remove it from their classrooms immediately and no longer do business with this company.”

Cauthorn and Stouffer are urging DESE to put a cease and desist notice to Missouri school districts, urging them to not use Queue’s materials. The senators will offer amendments to legislation ensuring their products are not used in Missouri classrooms. A Senate resolution is being drafted denouncing the company for their anti-meat, anti-farmer messages.

“Their materials are an insult to the hard working cattlemen in our state,” said Cauthorn. “If their organization wants to eat leaves and oats, fine. But don’t try to take down honest people making an honest living.”

Queue, Inc is from Shelton, Conn.

Students are instructed to read an entry entitled “Why Be Vegetarian.” The segment tells students:

- Eating meat leads to large amounts of saturated fat consumption, leading to heart disease.
- Eating animals is unkind.

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- Grain and soybeans should be directly consumed by humans, not U.S. livestock.
- Animal foods are more expensive.

The entry is followed by five multiple-choice questions. Students are then told to “write a letter to your parent or guardian explaining why you have decided to become a vegetarian.”

The same company has a poem-interpretation technique section in their materials. Students are forced to read a poem entitled “The Most Dangerous Beast.” The poem describes how dangerous and scary animals are, but claims the true threat is eating beef. Concluding the poem is the limerick “your brain could rot from eating beef, from Mad Cow disease there is no relief.”

The company’s CEO, Jonathan D. Kantrowitz, is the author of the poem.

“Not only are schools spending classroom time teaching kids how to take tests, they are scaring our children about our food supply,” said Cauthorn. “I think the teachers are just doing their job administering the booklet and this is an unintended consequence. But now that this problem has been brought to light, we need to stop this.”

According to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, individual companies market test-preparation services and materials directly to school districts. The Department does not advertise services to school districts.

Osceola Public Schools, where the essay writing propaganda was first reported, has pulled the segments from their classrooms. Parents of students in Centralia schools brought the poem to the attention of the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association.

“I know our schools are just trying to do well on a MAP test,” said Cauthorn. “But this company is pushing their political agenda on our kids and hurting Missouri’s agriculture producers – all while stealing our tax dollars. This is wrong and must end now.”

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri’s 18th Senate District. He can be reached at his Capitol office at (573) 751-6858. You can also visit his web page by going to www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn.