



MISSOURI SENATE
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Sens. Stouffer, Cauthorn Demand DESE Pull Propaganda from Classrooms

JEFFERSON CITY — Senators Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, and John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, are calling for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and local school districts to remove all Queue Inc. MAP testing preparation materials from classrooms. Queue’s test-preparation book includes a segment entitled “Why Be Vegetarian,” which asks students to write a letter to their parents explaining why they have decided to become vegetarians. The book also requires students to analyze poems that contain scare tactics.

“Biased test-prep materials have no place in an objective academic environment,” Stouffer said. “This is clearly propaganda disguised as an educational resource, and it is having a negative effect on families and our agriculture community. Missouri should not have ties to this agenda-driven corporation.”

Stouffer and Cauthorn are urging DESE to send a cease-and-desist notice to Missouri school districts that urges them to not use Queue’s materials. The senators also will offer amendments to legislation ensuring Queue’s products are not used in Missouri classrooms. Further, a Senate resolution is being drafted to denounce the company for its anti-farmer message.

“The hardworking farmers and ranchers of our state deserve better than this slap in the face,” Stouffer said. “Even more upsetting is these Missourians are working to make a living raising animals to feed people throughout the United States and elsewhere.”

Queue Inc. is based in Shelton, Conn.

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In the test book, 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.
- 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 [their] parent or guardian explaining why [they] have decided to become a vegetarian.”

The same company has a poem-interpretation section in their materials. Students are required 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.

“Preparing for the MAP test is very important, but we should not have to sacrifice our values for a standardized test,” Stouffer said. “We are spending tax dollars to administer test preparation that includes an obvious bias against our way of life, and that is just wrong.”

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 encourage all Missouri school districts to take a second look at the test-prep materials being used by students,” Stouffer said. “Now that we have recognized there is a problem, it is time to do something about it.”

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