



3/19/2025

California State Assembly Education Committee

Written Testimony in Opposition to [Bill Number]: Protecting Religious Freedom and Parental Rights in Education

Dear Members of the California State Assembly Education Committee,

The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) represents over 2,250 member schools across the United States, including many in California. ACSI exists to strengthen Christian schools and equip Christian educators to provide high-quality, faith-based education while preparing students academically and spiritually.

We write to express our **opposition** to AB 727, which would mandate LGBTQ advocacy in all schools, including faith-based institutions, without any exemptions for religious beliefs. This bill represents an alarming overreach by the state, undermining the rights of parents and religious schools to provide education consistent with their faith and convictions.

Threats to Religious Schools and Parental Choice

- **Unprecedented Government Mandate on Faith-Based Institutions** – This bill would compel Christian schools to adopt LGBTQ advocacy across curricula and policies, disregarding their constitutional right to operate according to biblical principles.
- **Erosion of Parental Rights** – Parents who intentionally choose Christian education for their children would have no ability to shield them from teachings that conflict with their faith.
- **No Religious Exemptions** – Unlike prior education policies that acknowledge religious institutions' unique role, this legislation disregards their rights and autonomy, forcing compliance with ideological mandates.

This legislation would force private Christian schools to compromise their faith-based mission or face penalties, threatening their very existence in California. Such coercion not only violates the First Amendment but also undermines the fundamental diversity of educational options that families depend on.