

To whom it may concern:

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology supports the repeal of Louisiana state law R.S. 17:285.1, the "Louisiana Science Education Act." This statute encourages the introduction of non-scientific philosophies into teaching of standard scientific principles. Philosophy has no place in science curricula, and its inclusion will lead to a weakening of the scientific method as a teaching and research tool in the Louisiana public schools.

Charles Darwin's theory of evolution has withstood challenge for the past 150 years. Attempts to undermine the theory rely on non-scientific arguments along with weak criticisms of perceived shortcomings, combined with concurrent attempts to promote religious alternatives. Previous court decisions have established the unconstitutionality of teaching any religious-themed theories in science classes. Importantly, faith does not preclude acceptance of evolution, as demonstrated by the Catholic Church's repeated declarations in support of the theory.

We stand united with the overwhelming majority of the scientific community in holding that the theory of evolution is the most viable scientific explanation for the diversity of life on this planet. Debate over the theory of evolution regarding its implications for the meaning of life should be held outside of science classrooms.

American education in science and technology, particularly at the K-12 level, continues to decline, especially when compared with other countries. To remain as a leader in science and technology, it is essential that we support proper training in these crucial subjects. The Louisiana Science Education Act represents a setback for Louisiana students and we urge its repeal by the Louisiana legislature.

Sincerely,

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President