



*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.*  
*Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy*

April 4, 2017

Dear Representatives:

We, the undersigned faculty members at the University of Oklahoma, wish to register our **strong opposition to Senate Bill 393.**

Science teachers in our public schools already have a reasonable degree of freedom in choosing what to teach and how to teach it, under the supervision of local and state educational authorities, so the bill is unnecessary.

But it is worse than unnecessary. Passage of the bill would make public school teachers who *miseducate* their students unaccountable to their supervisors, their local school boards, and ultimately to the people of Oklahoma.

Significantly, various organizations representing K-12 science teachers – the Oklahoma Science Teachers Association, Oklahomans for Excellence in Science Education, the National Science Teachers Association, the National Association of Biology Teachers, the National Association of Geoscience Teachers among them – are also opposed to SB 393.

As instructors and researchers working in Oklahoma institutions of higher education, we are especially concerned about the bill for two additional reasons.

First, we count on our K-12 colleagues to provide their current and our future students with the scientific basics to allow them to succeed in higher education. Passage of SB 393 will harm science education in Oklahoma across the board.

Second, passage of the bill would harm Oklahoma's reputation in the scientific, technology, and engineering communities, making it harder to attract talent to our colleges and universities – as well to our burgeoning



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high-tech sector.

There are no valid scientific or pedagogical reasons to pass SB 393, and plenty of valid reasons to oppose it. We therefore **strongly urge you to vote against SB 393** if it is brought to a vote in the House Education Committee.

Sincerely,

- Dr. Howard Baer, Homer L. Dodge Professor of High Energy Physics and George Lynn Cross (GLC) Research Professor
- Dr. Greg Parker, Chair of OU Department of Physics & Astronomy and GLC Research Professor
- Professor Phillip Gutierrez, High Energy Physics
- Dr. Kimball Milton, GLC Research Professor (emeritus)
- Professor Ron Kantowski (emeritus)
- Professor John Tobin, Homer L. Dodge Professor of Astrophysics
- Matt Clement, OU P&A graduate student
- Lisa Simpson, OU P&A graduate student
- Prof. Edward Baron, GLC Research Professor
- Prof. John Stupak, High Energy Physics
- Prof. Lloyd Bumm, Condensed Matter Physics
- Prof. Brad Abbott, High Energy Physics
- Professor Deborah Watson (emeritus)
- Prof. Nathan Kaib, Astrophysics
- Joel P. Young, OU P&A machine shop foreman
- Prof. David Branch, GLC Professor emeritus
- Prof. Pat Skubic, High Energy Physics
- Mr. Evan Rich, OU P&A graduate student