2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 323

BY REPRESENTATIVES JORDAN, BOYD, BRASS, BRYANT, CARPENTER, WILFORD CARTER, CHASSION, FISHER, GREEN, HUGHES, JACKSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MENA, MILLER, MOORE, NEWELL, PHELPS, SELDERS, TAYLOR, WALTERS, WILLARD, AND YOUNG

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: Requests that the state Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education prohibit the use of certain "edutainment" videos as educational tools in classrooms

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Education and the State Board of
3	Elementary and Secondary Education to prohibit the use of "edu-tainment" children's
4	videos that are discriminatory and anti-Semitic as educational tools in classrooms.
5	WHEREAS, on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at a statewide teacher conference, the state
6	superintendent of Education, Cade Brumley, announced his endorsement of showing
7	students videos by PragerU, a right-wing media nonprofit that produces "pro-America"
8	content; and
9	WHEREAS, in his announcement, the superintendent said that "PragerU's videos
10	align with the state's new social studies standards", which he calls the "Freedom
11	Framework"; and
12	WHEREAS, the superintendent also stated that "Louisiana was the first state to adopt
13	new, rigorous social studies standards that teach students about American exceptionalism
14	and our quest for a more perfect union", according to a statement released by PragerU, and
15	that "this partnership will provide teachers with additional resources to help bring our
16	'Freedom Framework' to life"; and

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1 WHEREAS, PragerU said its partnership with Louisiana is "more expansive" than 2 in other states, adding that Louisiana's education department approved an "extensive list" of 3 PragerU videos for social studies; and 4 WHEREAS, educators, legislators, historians, and political scientists have criticized 5 PragerU's videos as content promoting conservative viewpoints on various political, 6 economic, and sociological topics and containing misleading or inaccurate claims about 7 slavery and racism in the United States, immigration, and the history of fascism; and 8 WHEREAS, PragerU has published videos critical of other faiths, including "Where 9 Are the Moderate Muslims?" and "Born to Hate Jews"; and 10 WHEREAS, content on the PragerU Kids YouTube channel, which has received 11 backlash, includes a video depicting a cartoon Christopher Columbus saying slavery wasn't 12 an issue during his time period because of its widespread use and another describing George 13 Floyd as a "black man who resisted arrest"; and 14 WHEREAS, PragerU's videos for students in grades kindergarten through twelve 15 promote a conservative world view; for example, a book called *Sofia Survives the Border* 16 for middle and high schoolers teaches students "why strong borders are essential for keeping 17 communities safe and prosperous"; and 18 WHEREAS, a video for grades six through twelve called "Los Angeles: Mateo Backs 19 the Blue" explores "how the Black Lives Matter movement and anti-police sentiment 20 affected crime, families, and small businesses in American cities"; and 21 WHEREAS, when PragerU received blowback from educators and historians after 22 being granted approval to show videos to students in kindergarten through sixth grade in 23 public schools in Florida, PragerU said that its content pushes back against what it calls 24 "woke agendas infiltrating classrooms"; and 25 WHEREAS, in its 2023 annual report, PragerU stated that it is dedicated to "Biblical 26 values, protecting children's innocence, celebrating America's exceptional history, civic 27 responsibility, rejecting woke culture, and defending free speech"; and 28 WHEREAS, a unique aspect of PragerU is that there is no bid process for the videos, 29 it is not a traditional vendor that requires payment, it is not an accredited university, it does

1 not have creators with a vast education background, and its website states what its intention 2 is, which is purely for indoctrination, and says it is specifically for conservative values; and 3 WHEREAS, the Preamble to Article VIII of the Constitution of Louisiana states: 4 "[t]he goal of the public educational system is to provide learning environments and 5 experiences, at all stages of human development, that are humane, just, and designed to 6 promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to 7 develop to his full potential". 8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 9 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education and 10 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prohibit use of "edu-tainment" 11 children's videos that are discriminatory and anti-Semitic as educational tools in classrooms. 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 13 state superintendent of education and the president of the State Board of Elementary and 14 Secondary Education.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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