

LEGISLATION AFFECTING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norman Olshansky

Letter to Sarasota County School Board Members: Thomas Edwards, Karen Rose, Liz Barker, Tim Enos and Terry Conner

I am writing to you on behalf of the Suncoast Jewish Alliance. We are concerned about the impact HB 1009 and Senate bill 1504 will have on religious minorities in the public schools if passed

(<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1009/BillText/Filed/PDF>).

This proposed legislation would put prohibitions on Sarasota County School Systems. This legislation goes beyond what the courts have already allowed regarding government entanglement with religion. We would request that you go on record opposing this proposed legislation. The "equal access law" already covers most of what is in the bill but there are activities proposed that will encourage young children to be put in positions that will challenge their own religious identity. I've attached a copy of the bill for your review. At a time of increased antisemitism, we are especially concerned about how this will impact Jewish students and teachers. We would welcome your feedback

Norman Olshansky, President
Suncoast Jewish Alliance
February 28, 2025