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HOUSE BILL 1481

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Sherstad, Mulliken, Dunn and Smith

Read first time 01/28/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to censorship by school districts; and adding a new  
2 section to chapter 28A.230 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6            (1) School district boards of directors shall not censor any  
7 documents, writings, speeches, or records specified in subsection (2)  
8 of this section relating to the founding of the United States or the  
9 state of Washington because of religious references in these documents,  
10 writings, speeches, or records. School district boards of directors  
11 shall allow any teacher or administrator in any public school to read  
12 or post in a public school building or classroom, or at a public school  
13 event, any excerpts or portions of documents, writings, speeches, or  
14 records specified in subsection (2) of this section relating to the  
15 founding of the United States and the state of Washington.

16            (2) Documents, writings, speeches, or records relating to the  
17 founding of the United States or the state of Washington means: The  
18 Washington Enabling Act; the Washington Constitution; Washington  
19 Supreme Court decisions; the Mayflower Compact; the Declaration of

1 Independence; the Articles of Confederation; the United States  
2 Constitution; the Federalist Papers; United States Supreme Court  
3 decisions; and the documents, writings, and speeches of the founding  
4 fathers of the United States.

5 (3) For the purposes of this section, "founding fathers" means the  
6 signators to the Declaration of Independence, the authorized delegates  
7 to the Constitutional Convention, the members of the first United  
8 States Congress, the members of the first Supreme Court, and the first  
9 President of the United States.

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