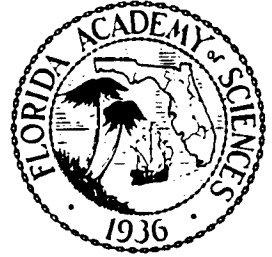


Florida Academy of Sciences, Inc.

810 EAST ROLLINS STREET • ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32803

21 February 1986



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Honorable Bob Graham
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Governor Graham:

In view of the apparent resurgence of Creationist influence in the State of Florida, I feel it is important for you to know the position taken by the Florida Academy of Sciences.

The Council of the Florida Academy of Sciences endorses the resolution entitled "Forced Teaching of Creationist Beliefs in Public School Science Education" adopted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1982. A copy of the resolution is attached. Briefly, the resolution speaks against legislation that requires the teaching of Creationist beliefs as science.

The resolution was endorsed at the 28 September 1985 meeting of the Council and reaffirmed by the Council at its 1 February 1986 meeting. The Council is the governing body of the Florida Academy of Sciences. It consists of 51 elected and appointed scientists, engineers, and educators, almost 10% of the full membership of the Academy.

I know that the views of scientists and educators in Florida will be seriously considered by you, your Cabinet, and State legislators before action is taken on matters dealing with the teaching of Creationism. Aside from direct correspondence, however, the Academy does not have a mechanism for communicating its views regarding science and science education in the State. This letter is, therefore, sent in an informative spirit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard L. Turner".

Richard L. Turner

RLT/jg

CC: The Cabinet
State Legislators
FAS Executive Committee

FORCED TEACHING OF CREATIONIST BELIEFS
IN PUBLIC SCHOOL SCIENCE EDUCATION

Whereas it is the responsibility of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to preserve the integrity of science, and

Whereas science is a systematic method of investigation based on continuous experimentation, observation, and measurement leading to evolving explanations of natural phenomena, explanations which are continuously open to further testing, and

Whereas evolution fully satisfies these criteria, irrespective of remaining debates concerning its detailed mechanisms, and

Whereas the Association respects the right of people to hold diverse beliefs about creation that do not come within the definitions of science, and

Whereas Creationist groups are imposing beliefs disguised as science upon teachers and students to the detriment and distortion of public education in the United States,

Therefore be it resolved that because "Creationist Science" has no scientific validity it should not be taught as science, and further, that the AAAS views legislation requiring "Creationist Science" to be taught in public schools as a real and present threat to the integrity of education and the teaching of science, and

Be it further resolved that the AAAS urges citizens, educational authorities, and legislators to oppose the compulsory inclusion in science education curricula of beliefs that are not amenable to the process of scrutiny, testing, and revision that is indispensable to science.

Adopted by the AAAS Board of Directors on January 4, 1982, and by the AAAS Council on January 7, 1982

Endorsed by the Florida Academy of Sciences Council on September 28, 1985, and reaffirmed by the Council on February 1, 1986