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The Honorable John W. Ford
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Rm. 424A
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 521-5634

Dear Chairman Ford,

On behalf of our members in Oklahoma and the students they teach, the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) would like to express its strong opposition to SB 1765, also known as the *Oklahoma Science Education Act*. This latest attempt by Senator John Brecheen to permit teachers “to help students understand, analyze, critique and review in an objective manner” scientific concepts is unnecessary. Oklahoma science teachers already do this as directed by the state curriculum standards.

NABT is an organization dedicated to biology education, and we know that the students of Oklahoma are best served when curriculum reflects current understanding of science and maintains scientific integrity in the science classroom. However, SB 1765 could easily permit non-science based discussions of “strengths and weaknesses” to take place in science classrooms, confusing students about the nature of science. Well-established scientific principles and theories such as cell division, photosynthesis, or evolution should not be misrepresented as controversial, or in need of special exploration. Instead, they should be presented to students as they are understood by both the scientific and education communities, which is based on detectable and measurable data and supported by experimentation, logical analysis, and evidence-based revision.

The students of Oklahoma deserve only the best possible biology and life science education, and we are confident that you agree. Therefore, we respectfully request that the state reject SB 1765.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Approved By The NABT Executive Committee