

## **A Resolution in regard to Ohio House Bill 597**

*Whereas* science is a basis of our modern technological society and economy; and

*Whereas* a scientifically educated citizenry is critical to the future of this State of Ohio and of these United States of America; and

*Whereas* scientific thinking and scientific processes are at the core of science; and

*Whereas* those scientific processes revolve around the testing of scientific theories through the comparison of their predictions with data, leading to the rejection or modification of those theories or to increased confidence in and consensus on their correctness; and scientific theories, such as Relativity, or Evolution, or Anthropogenic Climate Change, that have achieved a high level of confidence and consensus among scientists generally continue to be called theories, in contrast with common usage, and in acknowledgement that they may one day confront contradictory data requiring their rejection, modification or extension; and

*Whereas* theories that cannot be subjected to this process of prediction and comparison with data are generally regarded by scientists as unscientific; and

*Whereas* neither political nor religious arguments may therefore enter into the scientific formulation or evaluation of scientific theories; and

*Whereas* science education that omits the teaching of scientific thinking and scientific processes in favor exclusively of scientific facts, or that encourages or allows the misrepresentation of unscientific theories as scientific alternatives, fails to prepare students for higher education in science, for informed engagement in our society, or for active participation in many aspects of the current and future economy; and

*Whereas* a main sponsor of Ohio House Bill 597 has been quoted as supporting allowing school districts the flexibility to incorporate non-scientific perspectives, including faith-based perspectives, into the teaching of scientific subjects; and

*Whereas* the Common Core State Standards Initiative academic content standards, previously adopted by the Ohio State Board of Education, were developed through an evidence-based bipartisan multi-state process developed and lead by the nation's governors and education commissioners through their representatives; and

*Whereas* the state board of education exercises under the acts of the general assembly general supervision of the system of public education in the State of Ohio and should therefore be required and expected to ensure that that system's students are provided with the highest possible quality of education, including science education;

*Therefore be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate of Case Western Reserve University:

- a) Strongly opposes the provisions of Ohio House Bill 597 repealing and replacing the Common Core State Standards Initiative academic content standards with standards legislated by fiat or developed through any process that fails to meet the same high standards as the Common Core;
- b) Rejects explicitly the bill's premise that students should "focus on academic and scientific knowledge rather than scientific processes;"
- c) Rejects the notion that non-scientific perspectives, such as faith-based theories, have a place in the teaching of science;
- d) Calls on Representatives Thompson and Huffman to withdraw HB597, or failing that for the Ohio House and Senate to reject the bill;
- e) Calls on Governor Kasich to speak publicly against the bill and to veto it should it be submitted to him for approval.