

Talking points posted on March for Science Oklahoma Facebook page by Elaine Bennett

My talking points (I am in biotech so that was my approach) Dear Mr. Speaker, I wanted to write to you regarding SB 393 and SB450 "The Oklahoma Science Education Act" and urge you not to assign the bill to committee. As a scientist in this great state, I am appalled that this bill has garnered traction in the legislation. This is standard creationist language to allow anti-science information into the classroom and is almost identical to SB 1322 introduced last year which was never heard in the Senate Education Committee. The ulterior motives of this bill is to allow for antiscience material to be taught in our science classrooms. It is telling that no teacher group or scientific organization supports this bill. If we want to equip today's students to be tomorrow's scientists and innovators, we cannot allow anti-science agendas to be taught in our science classrooms. The science and biotech industry is of great economic benefit to the state of Oklahoma. In a time of great economic crisis for our state, I urge you not to assign the bill to committee as we have far greater concerns in our state than passing bills that are detrimental to our future Oklahoma scientists and future economy.