

The New Evolution Bill Is Now Law

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Tuesday, April 10, 2012, marks a significant day in Tennessee History as the state legislature passed bill HB 368/SB 893 by a three-to-one margin making it lawful in Tennessee for students in public schools to question or criticize the theory of evolution and other controversial subjects like global warming. The landmark bill became law after Governor Bill Haslam opted not to sign it into law but to let it become law in the absence of his veto. Nick Wing with *The Huffington Post* reported, “The state legislature had sent the bill to Haslam earlier this month. He had until Tuesday to veto it, sign it or allow it to pass without his signature.”

While the Governor indicated the bill offered no change to current practice in public schools, Vanderbilt earth and environmental science professor, Dr. Larisa Grawe DeSantis, sent him a letter and a petition with 3,200 signatures urging him to veto the bill for the reason that it would open the door for the teaching of intelligent design and creationism. Their argument, borrowing wording from the National Academy of Science, was

Some scientific conclusions or theories have been so thoroughly examined and tested, and supported by so many independent observations and results, that their likelihood of subsequently being found to be wrong is vanishingly small. Such conclusions and theories are then regarded as settled facts.¹

(The ACLU² and the AUSCS³ also unsuccessfully pressured the Governor to veto the bill).

The argument of DeSantis is exactly the reason why such a bill was needed. Evolutionists do their best work in the absence of any contradictory evidence or challenging voice. They use sarcasm in the place of factual information and reason, like their calling the bill “The Monkey Bill” harkening back to the famous Scopes Trial of 1925. What an insult to two-thirds of the Tennessee House and Senate who voted for the bill!

Like a rebellious teenager engaging in a practice prohibited by his parents, evolutionists have long made the “everybody is doing it” argument for justification of their behavior. Evolutionary scientists who professionally should be basing statements on factual findings instead resort to mere assertion alleging in the absence of proof the validity of evolution. When DeSantis asserts evolution is fact, she simply parrots what other wishful thinking scientists have said. A few examples are given from *A Study Course In Christian Evidences* by Thompson and Jackson,

“All reputable biologists have agreed that evolution of life on Earth is an established fact.” So stated Drs. Vance and Miller in their text, *Biology for You* (J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1958, p 520). And they are not alone in such statements. Sir Julian Huxley of Great Britain once said: “The first point to make about Darwin’s theory is that it is no longer a theory, but a fact. No serious scientist would deny the fact that evolution has occurred...” (*IN: Evolution After Darwin*, Sol Tax, editor, University of Chicago Press, 1960, p 41). Stephen J.

Gould of Harvard put it this way: “Evolution is a fact, like apples falling out of trees” (*Newsweek*, November 23, 1980)....

In May of 1966, Hermann J. Muller, Nobel laureate in genetics, published a manifesto which stated that evolution was “firmly established” as a fact of science. The manifesto was signed by 177 of the world’s most famous scientists, including such men as Carl Sagan of Cornell University, John T. Bonner of Princeton, George Beadle of the University of Chicago, and others (p. 47).

So, historically evolutionists quote each other asserting that evolution is a fact in the place of presenting unassailable scientific evidence.

Since evolutionists depend so heavily on the statement that all “reputable scientists” believe in evolution, and especially since it is now legal in public schools in Tennessee to criticize the evolutionary position, it is appropriate and even politically correct to challenge the allegation. What do the facts about where the scientists stand support? Contrary to the impression evolutionary scientists’ project, not all reputable scientists accept evolution as fact.

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One website lists 600 scientists who dissent from accepting Darwinian evolution. They are from places like Yale, M.I.T, NASA, Cambridge, the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute, Cornell, and the University of Chicago. In dissenting, they initially noted, “Public TV programs, educational policy statements, and science textbooks have asserted that Darwin’s theory of evolution fully explains the complexity of living things. The public has been assured, most recently by spokespersons for PBS’s *Evolution* series, that ‘all known scientific evidence supports [Darwinian] evolution’ as does ‘virtually every reputable scientist in the world.’ The following scientists dispute the first claim and stand as living testimony in contradiction to the second. There **is** scientific dissent to Darwinism. It deserves to be heard.” The names of 600 scientists follows. Their statement of dissent reads, “We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged.” (A concerned parent might want to visit the website and print out the “Dissent Declaration” for their child to arm himself/herself with in science class.)⁴

Dr. Henry M. Morris, Ph.D. offers five strong, scientific proofs constituting “The Scientific Case Against Evolution” in his article on the Institute for Creation Research website.⁵ They are: 1) Evolution Is Not Happening Now, 2) Evolution Never Happened in the Past, 3) The Equivocal Evidence from Genetics, 4) Evolution Could Never Happen at All, and 5) Evolution Is Religion—Not Science. All of the quotations he uses in the article (from 25 sources) are from what he calls “doctrinaire evolutionists” so that the evolutionists themselves provide the case against evolution. Parents and grandparents with children in public schools should get a copy of this article and review it with their children. The best defense against error is a strong and accurate offense. Contemporary materials like this are readily available to assist Christians to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3) and to be “set for the defense of the gospel” (Philippians 1:17).⁶

¹<http://www.nashvillescene.com/pitw/archives/2012/04/06/vanderbilt-professor-and-3200-tennesseans-urge-haslam-to-veto-science-education-bill>.

²ACLU—American Civil Liberties Union.

³AUSCS—Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

⁴<http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/filesDB-download.php?command=download&id=660>

⁵http://www.icr.org/home/resources/resources_tracts_scientificcaseagainstevolution.

⁶For Example, <http://www.dissentfromdarwin.org/links.php>.