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Supervisor
Shelton

Tampa Jewish Federation

2808 Horatio
Tampa, Florida 33609
Telephone (813) 872-4451

April 17, 1980

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Dr. Raymond Shelton
Superintendent of Public Schools
901 E. Kennedy Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Dr. Shelton:

The Board of Directors of the Tampa Jewish Federation, at its March 27, 1980 meeting, unanimously adopted the enclosed statement of policy on the teaching of creation as a part of the curriculum in our public schools.

Board of Directors:

- *Charles Adler
- B. Terry Aidman
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- Eli Blumenfeld
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- Dr. Norman Rosenthal
- Rabbi Martin Sandberg
- M. William Saul
- Marsha Sherman
- Gddie Shear
- James H. Shimbberg
- Paul N. Sper
- Sharon G. Stein
- Judge Ralph Steinberg
- Rabbi Frank N. Sundheim
- Judith B. Tawil
- Ruth Wagner
- *Honorary Life Member

It is our hope that you will strongly consider this statement as representing the majority opinion of the Jewish community of Tampa when the topic comes before the School Board.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Carl L. Zielonka, DDS
Vice President and
Chairman, Community Relations Committee

CLZ:rd

Enclosure.

The following agencies are fully or partly funded by the Tampa Jewish Federation: Jewish Community Center • Tampa Jewish Social Services • Hillel School • Chai Dial-A-Bus • Tay Sachs • River Gardens • Chabad House • Hillel Foundation • BBYO • Russian Resettlement • United Jewish Appeal • National Agencies • Council Of Jewish Federations • Nat'l Jewish Welfare Board • Professors For Peace • B'nai B'rith ADL • United Has Service • Jewish Telegraphic Agency • American Jewish Committee • American Jewish Congress • Nat'l Comm Relations Adv Council • Jewish War Veterans • Jewish Braille Society • Yeshiva Menachem Society • Herzliah Hebrew Teachers Inst. • Joint Cultural Appeal • Jewish Children's Services • High School In Israel • Synagogue Council Of America • Amer. Assn. For Jewish Education • Jewish Choroque Society

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TAMPA JEWISH FEDERATION

The Tampa Jewish Federation stands firmly in its endorsement of the principle of separation of church and state. The church or synagogue is and should be the teacher and interpreter of religious belief and doctrine for its own members. The public school system, by its very nature, is supported by all elements of American society -- by members of all religious faiths.

Teaching of material traditionally regarded as in the realm of religious doctrine in the public schools is a violation of the separation of church and state and does not belong as a part of the science curriculum. In addition, to offend those whose beliefs do not include the literal interpretation of the Bible is an improper function of the public school system.

The public school system is the guardian of the constitutional rights of all students. To allow any religious teaching would be a violation of this responsibility.

3/27/80