



ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

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THE ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA STATEMENT ON ARMENIAN GENOCIDE DENIAL CASE

Washington, DC – The Armenian Assembly of America has released the following statement in the case of *Griswold v. Driscoll et. Al.* (the Armenian Genocide Denial Case), which will be heard in U.S. District Court in Boston today. The lawsuit, filed last year by the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), asserts that the Massachusetts Department of Education’s decision to remove denialist materials in the school curriculum amounts to “censoring” and therefore would be a violation of the First Amendment.

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA AND OTHER ARMENIAN AMERICAN AMICUS CURIAE FOR HEARING BEFORE CHIEF JUDGE MARK WOLF OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

The Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenian-American individuals who have filed an Amicus Curiae Memorandum for today’s hearing on the Motion to Dismiss the Complaint in the case of *Griswold v. Driscoll et al* will point out to the Court in the oral argument scheduled today that:

1. The Armenian-Americans who have filed this Amicus brief are affronted that the Turkish interests and other plaintiffs who have brought this lawsuit are seeking to have students in Massachusetts schools be referred to websites which characterize the Armenian Genocide as a “myth” and “as bogus as a three dollar bill.” In fact, there is no credible argument that the massacres of Armenians during and after World War One were not genocide and the overwhelming historical and legal records supports the finding of genocide of the Armenian population in Ottoman Turkey during and after World War One.
2. The choice of the Massachusetts Board of Education, in a sound educational decision, to exclude the Turkish sponsored websites in recommending what should be taught to students in Massachusetts public schools without reference to the so-called denialist or “contra-genocide” theory, fulfills the mandate of G.L. c. 276 of the Acts of 1998;
3. When the Massachusetts Board of Education issued its curriculum guide on teaching about the Armenian Genocide, it was government speech and there is no First Amendment right to challenge such government speech;

4. If the plaintiffs succeed with this lawsuit, there will be no stopping point for the demands anyone can make for inclusion in curriculum recommendations, no matter how flawed or outrageous.

5. No one's First Amendment rights to receive information have been denied since the plaintiffs, and anyone else, can obtain whatever information they want about the Armenian Genocide from sources outside the curriculum guide.

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The Armenian Assembly of America is the largest Washington-based nationwide organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues. It is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization.

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