

January 27, 2006

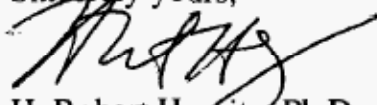
USD 383 Board of Education
Manhattan-Ogden Public School District
Robinson Education Center
2031 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502

Dear Board Members:

In September 2005 I and 38 other Nobel Laureates wrote the Kansas State Board of Education in defense of science and education. We urged the Board to reject proposed science standards that were to include alternatives to evolution as explanations for the origin of species. I was disappointed that the Board voted to adopt the proposed standards on November 8, 2005. As we stated then, evolution is not a theory, as the term "theory of evolution" seems to indicate, but rather is based upon compelling scientific evidence and *is the foundation* of much of modern biology. The standards adopted by the Board redefined science in a way that I believe *will harm* the education of students in Kansas as they try to understand the world in which they live and compete with the world's workforce.

I applaud the current effort by the science faculty of the Kansas State University not to allow science to be redefined, at least in Manhattan. I urge you to support their resolution not to support the new Kansas Science Standards. In supporting the KSU *faculty you would show great leadership and ensure that the students in your district will continue to have a strong science education. You also would be joining the large number of scientific and educational organizations that support rigorous science education.*

Sincerely yours,



H. Robert Horvitz, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology, MIT

2002 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine