



Press Contacts

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Dear Editor,

For 25 years, most students in America have been living and learning in chains—the chains of an oppressive Supreme Court ruling that school administrators use to censor free expression with little to no justification.

This ruling, *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* (1988), is a plague on both our houses. As educators, we seek to create critical, independent, and curious minds who will engage actively in our vibrant democracy. As journalists, you seek to spread truth, empowering citizens to use solid, factual information to make their own choices about the world around them.

Under the crushing weight of *Hazelwood*, both our endeavors are rendered fruitless. When student journalists, artists, musicians, actors and even graduation speakers are censored, lessons in democracy, tolerance and civic-mindedness are contradicted. Under *Hazelwood*, we are literally teaching our students one thing and practicing another.

With the approaching anniversary of the *Hazelwood* ruling (January 13, 2013), we would like to encourage your news outlet to consider covering how this ruling has affected student media in your local communities.

Please consider this:

Do you support your local student media?

Do you know if they are allowed to publish freely?

How can you help foster an appreciation for a free press in your community?

We simply cannot hope to maintain a society devoted to free thinking when our future leaders are being taught otherwise.

For more information, please visit our website at www.jeasprc.org, and be sure to check out the Student Press Law Center's Cure Hazelwood campaign at www.curehazelwood.org. Members of the Journalism Education Association's Scholastic Press Rights Commission are also available to connect you with local student media in your community.

With thanks,

Journalism Education Association / www.jea.org
JEA Scholastic Press Rights Commission / jeasprc.org

