

FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES AND YOUTH UNITS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fort Lauderdale---The NAACP Florida State Conference condemns Governor DeSantis for his abhorrent and ignorant claims that a College Board AP African American History course has no "value." By pandering to those who willfully ignore the truth, Governor DeSantis not only insults Black Floridians, but he also sets a dangerous precedent that undermines the education of our children - particularly Black children.

It is an affront that any governor would seek to undermine a valuable educational tool like the AP African American History course; one designed to give students an understanding and appreciation of their own pasts, as well as those of their ancestors. By blocking access to this important resource, our state's children are being deprived of crucial knowledge required in order to gain a comprehensive and honest view of history. It is also ironic and telling that Florida offers AP World History, while denying African American History.

Governor DeSantis' decision is a shameful disservice to both education and progress. It is imperative that we all work together to provide all Florida students with equal access to quality education regardless of race - especially when it comes to teaching about such an essential aspect of American life. Anything less than this level of inclusion not only betrays our commitment toward civil rights - it also sends a message that we have yet again failed to embrace true racial equality.

We urge Governor DeSantis and other members of his administration to think carefully about the consequences their actions will have on our future generations - particularly those from marginalized communities who often lack the resources necessary for learning outside what they are taught in school. We implore them to put aside any personal agendas and focus on undoing this wrong by reinstating AP African American History courses in Florida schools as soon as possible.

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Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. In 1941, the NAACP Florida State Conference was formed as the 1st State Conference in the nation. For more information on the NAACP Florida State Conference, please visit www.FLNAACP.com or follow us on Twitter @FLNAACP.