Providence, RI. May 30, 2023.

TeachTruth RI, a coalition of community organizations, educators, students, and parents committed to anti-racist and inclusive education, is collaborating with the Rochambeau Library to hold an event in defense of antiracism and educational freedom on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at 11AM, at Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope Street, Providence, RI. This event is part of the national Teach Truth Day of Action.

The action comes as state lawmakers across the country are introducing bills to ban school curricula that include information about the role of racism, sexism, heterosexism, and other oppression in U.S. history. Public libraries and librarians across the country are also being targeted for providing community resources, programming, and access to inclusive and comprehensive texts.

Over the past few years, and in our most recent legislative session, Rhode Island elected officials introduced bills aligned with these harmful ideologies. The event is an annual opportunity for the people of Rhode Island to show their commitment to teaching truthfully and to supporting all students. The message for legislators is that a few complaints about books, restrictive legislation efforts, and acts of hate can not bury the truth.

TeachTruth RI organizer and Providence educator, Lindsay Paiva, sums it up well, “These bills are a distraction from the true needs and crises in education today. Instead of advocating for what we actually need—more resources, funding, staff, and support for students and teachers—proponents of this legislation are more interested in creating division and fostering misinformation and unfounded fears. Our classrooms are where we practice how we want to move in the world, where we can challenge one another to be our fullest, most authentic selves. Teachers and librarians cannot do this critical work if we are silenced and threatened, if we are told to ignore our community members’ lived experiences and identities.”

All are welcome to attend to show support for the rights of teachers to teach culturally accurate histories, the rights of all students to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, and the rights of libraries to continue to support our collective community knowledge.

What: Rhode Island Teach Truth Day of Action
Who: Speakers include State Senator Tiara Mack, State Representative Jennifer Stewart, Paul Pasaba (educator), Sye Menebhi (educator), Deanna Theilig Brooks (teacher librarian), public school parents and students.
When: Saturday, June 10, 2023, 11:00am - 2:00pm
Where: Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope St, Providence, RI 02906
Why: This event is an annual opportunity for the people of Rhode Island to show their commitment to inclusive and representative curricula, truthful teaching, and comprehensive student support.

Note to producers:
There will be creative art projects, a display and discussion of banned books, and passionate speakers, including educators, legislators, and students.