INFORMATION ON INDIANA HB 1134, HB 1040

To Prohibit Discussion of Race and Systemic Racism in Schools, Colleges, or Libraries

The Indiana State legislature is currently working on bills (HB 1134, HB 1040) that will severely limit or prohibit discussion of race and systemic racism in schools, colleges or libraries. HB 1134, already passed out of the House Education Committee, and is expected to be set for 2nd Reading this week.

Your help is urgently needed, to protect the rights of Indiana's students, especially students of color, and their teachers. This bill:

- **Harms Black and Brown students:** Institutes a ban on any teaching anything that any student or parent would view as causing discomfort, anguish or psychological stress. (Nowhere mentioned is the great discomfort that would be caused to those whose history and heritage would be erased from public education.)
- **Makes teaching almost impossible:** Requires teacher to submit *all* lesson materials and activities, online or in person, *before every lesson.* Any parent could file a complaint about any instruction they disagreed with.
- **Institutes a culture of surveillance:** An outside committee would examine *all materials submitted by all teachers* at least twice a year. Both school personnel and school corporations would be individually identified if they violate the bill's provisions.
- **Prohibits class-wide or schoolwide discussion of social emotional issues without prior parent permission:** This bill would ban common day-to-day instruction helping shape developing students into fully functioning citizens who have learned to work together for the common good.
- **Enforces its provisions with draconian penalties against teachers and administrators:** Schools and districts violating the provisions of the bill can be sued. *Teachers, principals and superintendents can have their licenses revoked.* School libraries are subject to *criminal prosecution* if they are found to have "sexually explicit" materials in their library (with no description of who would make this judgment).

If this is not your vision of education for Indiana's students, please take action right away. A vote on the bill in the House may take place as early as this ***Thursday, Jan. 20****.*

Actions you can take:

- *Contact your legislator by e-mail immediately* and strongly urge a firm NO vote on HB 1134. (Click to View NAACP Talking Points, as well as a summary of the bill) Helpful links: Find your legislator. Email your legislator.

- Contact members of the House Committee on Education by e-mail immediately and strongly urge a firm NO vote on HB 1134. (Talking points from the NAACP attached, as well as a summary of the bill) Members are: Bob Behning (Chair), Jack Jordan (Vice Chair), Martin Carbaugh, Jeffrey Thompson, Chuck Goodrich, Sheila Klinker, Ed Delaney, Vernon Smith, Jake Teshka, Tony Cook, Michelle Davis, Tonya Pfaff, and Ed Clere. Helpful link: Email legislators.

- *Help us flood social media*—Twitter, Facebook, Instagram. This open letter by Noblesville School Superintendent Beth Niedermeyer would make an excellent retweet.
- *Educate yourself about the issue* by accessing information on the bill in this folder here
- *Spread the word* to anyone in any of your networks who cares about equity, diversity, or the right of teachers to teach and students to learn about our history.
- *Contact CPLI* through Molly Thielking, thielkingm@uindy.edu, or more information or other ways to get involved

This bill is moving extremely rapidly, since its sponsors understand that full public awareness would almost certainly defeat it. It is still possible to stop the severe damage this would do, but we must *work together and work quickly.*

Please stand together with Black and Brown students and families, Indiana's teachers, and programs that prepare our students to be skilled and engaged citizens, by speaking out, as strong and as soon as you can, against HB 1134.

We thank you for all you do!

JauNae

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