

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We are writing to urge you to reconsider the Department of Education's proposed rule that prioritizes federal grants for American History and Civics Education programs that tailor their curriculum around Critical Race Theory. The implementation of this proposed rule has serious consequences for our country's education system.

As you know, the rule specifically cites and praises the *New York Times* 1619 Project as a leading example of the ideas the Department intends to emphasize.¹ This is troubling as the 1619 Project has faced an abundance of criticism from academic scholars and historians. In response to the 1619 Project, five accredited historians submitted a letter to the *New York Times* pointing out the historical inaccuracies and misleading material of the project. Specifically debunked was the assertion that the fundamental cause of the American Revolution was to ensure slavery would continue and the proclamation our nation was founded on racial slavery.² In response, the *New York Times* issued a formal correction that the statements made were academic critiques not supported facts.³

Although the author of the 1619 Project, Nikole Hannah-Jones, continued to assert her work was based on historical accuracies, she ultimately admitted, in a since deleted tweet, "The 1619 Project is not a history. It is a work of journalism that explicitly seeks to challenge the national narrative and, therefore, the national memory."⁴ Our nation's children deserve an education rooted in facts and legitimate academic scholarship, not journalism and narrative. In fact, many States, such as New Hampshire, have introduced legislation that mirrors former President Trump's since-rescinded executive order that targeted restricting these curriculums.⁵ Furthermore, the ideology derived from the 1619 Project asserts that individuals are incapable of self-determination because their racial identity dictates an inherent prejudice towards others. Why is it a priority of the Administration to establish courses that teach students that they are inherently racist?

Schools should be a breeding ground for leaders of the next generation. Students should have the ability to think critically about the subjects they are taught and have the freedom to voice their opinions without fear of being labeled "racist" or "hateful". Schools' primary objective should be to teach our children how to think, not what to think.

¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/04/19/2021-08068/proposed-priorities-american-history-and-civics-education#print>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/20/magazine/we-respond-to-the-historians-who-critiqued-the-1619-project.html>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/20/magazine/we-respond-to-the-historians-who-critiqued-the-1619-project.html>

⁴ <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/1619-project-founder-claims-her-project-is-simply-an-origin-story-not-history>

⁵ <https://legiscan.com/NH/text/HB544/id/2238380>

There is no denying our country has had to overcome an appalling legacy of slavery and racial inequity. We have and will continue to make progress towards our nation's highest ideals of freedom and equality, but the ideologies derived from the 1619 Project and Critical Race Theory serve only to inflame divisions in this country. We respectfully request you begin the process of rescinding the Department of Education's proposed rule that pushes Critical Race Theory on U.S. schools.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and we look forward to your prompt response.

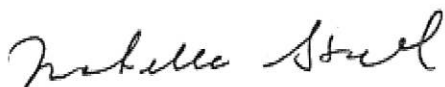
Sincerely,



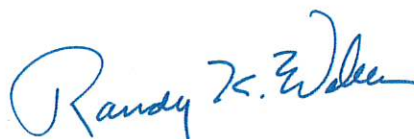
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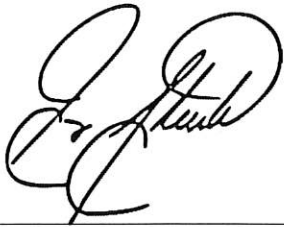
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