

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2021

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Docket No. ED-2021-OESE-0033 —“Proposed Priorities: American History and Civics Education,” 86 Fed. Reg. No. 73 at 20348 (Apr. 19, 2021).

Dear Secretary Cardona,

Today concludes the period for comment upon the U.S. Department of Education’s referenced proposal to adopt explicitly racialized grantmaking priorities in order “to improve ... [t]he quality of American history, civics, and government education.” A more wrong-headed, unamerican proposal would be difficult to imagine. Yet, the country must recognize that very soon President Biden’s embrace of the poisonous and anti-American ideology of critical race theory threatens to become official policy of the United States government, directed toward our most impressionable citizens — primary and secondary school students across the country. As countless Americans know that this effort is wrong, we join more than 24,000 individuals who have commented during the past 30 days, to express our dismay and objections to the proposal.

A search of the comments database at regulations.gov reveals more than 4,300 about critical race theory. These commenters obviously recognized, as do we, that this insidious ideology is the essence of the priorities you have proposed. Undoubtedly, many of the 4,300+ have explained to you that critical race theory is neo-racism, based on Marxist ideas, and deeply contradicts fundamental notions of American justice, including the core holding of *Brown v. Board of Educ.*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) that racial group segregation and antagonism is incompatible with our society and Constitution.

No doubt, these numerous commenters spotted the critical race theory foundations of the proposal in its repeated assertions, without supporting evidence, concerning “systemic racism,” “racial equity” (as distinct from the American founding principle of equality), “antiracism,” “‘identity-safe’ classrooms,” “systemic marginalization,” and the intention to “support students” in “[u]nderstanding their own biases.” No doubt, the 4,300+ commenters also observed that two out of the *three* sources the Department cites in support of the racialized Priority 1 are notorious critical race theory tracts, namely Ibram X. Kendi’s book *How to Be An Antiracist* and the New York Times’ “1619 Project.”

More than 740 commenters quoted to you Kendi's repugnant explanation of "antiracism": "the only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination."

More than 3,100 commented on the "discredited" 1619 Project, which one noted was "riddled with factual errors" that even left-wing historians called out. Six months after publication, the Times grudgingly retreated from the central and false historical claim — debunked by historians — that "one of the primary reasons" for the American revolution was "to protect the institution of slavery." The lead author also wrote the neo-racist trope that "anti-black racism runs in the very DNA of this country."

What thousands of Americans have told you in their comments should have been apparent from the outset: None of this garbage belongs in the regulatory output of a United States government agency, certainly not in a product of the Department of Education. It is deeply wrong for the Biden Administration to divide Americans along racial lines, to teach that members of certain races are inherently oppressors or oppressed, to imbue children, because of their immutable characteristics, with a sense of collective guilt for the errors of prior generations, or to mire other children in victimhood or a false resentment of their country. And if, as proposed, the Department of Education prefers or conditions grant applications on these corrupt ideas, it should not be doubted that American justice will restore the governance of Constitutional principles to the executive branch. After all, it was the Chief Justice who famously wrote, "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race." *Parents Involved in Cmty. Sch. v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551 U.S. 701 (2007). The Department should take its guidance from that, not Kendi.

We urge you to immediately withdraw the Department's proposed priorities.

Sincerely,



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



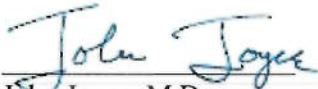
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Member of Congress




Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



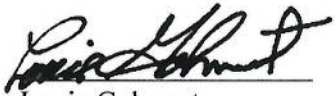
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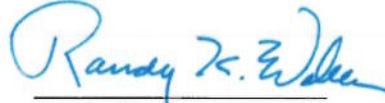
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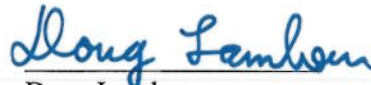
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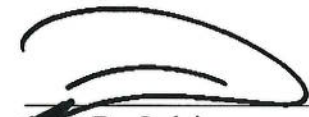
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Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



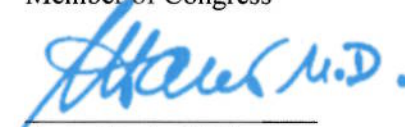
Scott DesJarlais
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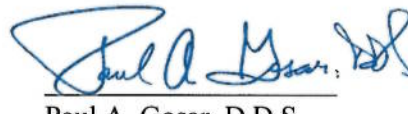
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