



Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

Resolution

In Support of Academic Freedom, Civil Rights, And Opposition to Education Censorship

To All Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS,** The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is statutorily empowered to safeguard all individuals within the Commonwealth from discrimination, and to further the interest, rights, and privileges of individuals within for a Commonwealth united for equality; and
- WHEREAS,** Civil rights are those rights guaranteed by law and by the U.S. Constitution, including but not limited to the areas of equal protection of the laws, employment, education, housing, and public accommodations; and
- WHEREAS,** Proposed legislation aimed at limiting purported Critical Race Theory, in effect serves as censorship of educators thus providing students with an incomplete and erroneous account of the history of the United States and of the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS,** The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution affords protections for teachers and students in their right to freedom of speech within the classroom; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States is made up of multiple races, ethnicities, and cultures; and
- WHEREAS,** Each of those races, ethnicities, and cultures has its own lived history and experiences; and
- WHEREAS,** Historically accurate retelling of those lived experiences is paramount to a well-informed understanding of the evolution of the United States as a country; and
- WHEREAS,** Academic freedom is the foundation of the U.S. education system, and is based on the premise that educational instruction is to be delivered by, and entrusted to, the many well trained educational professionals in the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS,** Attempts to expunge the morally reprehensible aspects of our history in favor of a version more palatable to some only furthers the lack of understanding of our past at a detriment to our future; and
- WHEREAS,** As a result of a lack of shared understanding, this agency encounters the ramifications of historical and present-day race and structural racism in our everyday work; and
- WHEREAS,** The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights stands for equality for all, and against any practices that exist as a detriment to functions for which this agency was created;