

## Statement in Support of Academic Freedom

Increasingly, we are seeing alarming proposals introduced at every level of government that would restrict academic discussions of racism and related issues in schools, colleges and universities. Franklin Pierce University [or the faculty of FPU, depending on audience] stand firm in our twin commitments to Academic Freedom and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, including in our curricula.

The faculty of Franklin Pierce University joins over 70 educational organizations, including the New England Commission on Higher Education, in support of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)'s Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History (June 16, 2021).

In alignment with Franklin Pierce University's Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, we affirm the Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism. We, the Academic Senate and the Provost, resolve the following:

We affirm the AAUP's "steadfast opposition to political interference in the conduct of this country's institutions of higher education" and we resolutely reject any attempts by bodies external to the university's faculty to restrict or dictate university curriculum on any matter, including matters related to racial and social justice.

We recognize political attempts to dictate curriculum related to the role of race in the US, the history and ongoing effects of racism, and the recognition of oppression as the most recent in a long history of attempts to quash academic freedom.

We stand with our colleagues throughout the country who may be affected by this pernicious legislation when they seek to teach the truth in U.S. history and civics education.

### Background:

- Scholarly Groups Condemn Laws Limiting Teaching on Race  
(New York Times, June 16, 2021)
- Texas 'critical race theory' bill limiting teaching of current events signed into law  
(ABC13, June 16, 2021)
- Republicans Want Federal Funding Cuts to Schools Using '1619 Project'—But There's a Twist  
(Education Week, June 15, 2021)
- Critical race theory battle invades school boards — with help from conservative groups  
(NBC News, June 15, 2021)

- Teachers across the country protest laws restricting lessons on racism  
(Washington Post, June 12, 2021)
- 'Children deserve to be taught': Teachers in 22 cities are planning protests over laws restricting racism lessons in schools  
(USA Today, June 11, 2021)
- 'Critical Race Theory Is Simply the Latest Bogeyman.' Inside the Fight Over What Kids Learn About America's History (TIME Magazine, June 24, 2021)
- Uncovering Who Is Driving The Fight Against Critical Race Theory In Schools  
(LISTEN) (Fresh Air, June 24, 2021)
- How the media's helping GOP fuel critical race theory hysteria  
(Press Run, June 23, 2021)
- Critical race theory has been around for decades — why's it a powder keg now?  
(LISTEN)  
(Marketplace, June 22, 2021)
- VIDEO: Creator of term 'Critical Race Theory' Kimberlé Crenshaw explains what it really is  
(MSNBC/The Reid Out, June 21, 2021)
- VIDEO: The truth about 'critical race theory': co-founder breaks down GOP gaslight  
(MSNBC/The Medhi Hasan Show, June 20, 2021)
- Fox's anti-"critical race theory" parents are also GOP activists  
(Media Matters, June 17, 2021)
- Critical Race Theory: What It Means for America and Why It Has Sparked Debate  
(Wall Street Journal, June 17, 2021)
- Why are states lining up to ban critical race theory?  
(University World News, June 12, 2021)
- The New York Times' Culture-War Definition of Free Speech  
(Melissa Gira Grant, The New Republic, June 8, 2021)
- Guest Blog: Where Does the Bizarre Hysteria About 'Critical Race Theory' Come From? Follow the Money!  
(Inside Higher Ed, June 3, 2021)
- Opinion: Why Conservatives Really Fear Critical Race Theory  
(Christine Emba, The Washington Post, May 26, 2021)
- (VIDEO) What critical race theory is really about  
(CNN/Don Lemon Tonight, May 17, 2021)