

FAMILY ISSUE FACT SHEET

NO. 2022-10 (FEBRUARY 2022)

Stop Critical Race Theory and Racial Discrimination in Schools and Other Public Institutions Act

HCR 2001 Racial Discrimination; Public Education

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Critical race theory (CRT) is described as the effort to “make race the prism through which its proponents analyze all aspects of American life, categorizing individuals into groups of oppressors and victims.”ⁱ Under the guise of anti-racism, the divisive and destructive propaganda is making its way into schools, workplaces, and public policy.

HCR 2001 asks Arizona voters to amend the Arizona Constitution to prohibit preferential or discriminatory treatment based on race or ethnicity. It also prohibits the teaching of what is known as critical race theory and similarly designed concepts in Arizona public and charter schools, as well as public universities. If passed, the proposition would appear on the November 2022 ballot.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Over the years, CRT proponents have moved it from the university lecture halls to secondary school classrooms, among other places, where agencies and companies hold workshops on intersectionality theory and require executives to “renounce their white male privilege.”ⁱⁱ CRT then moved to classrooms where middle schoolers are told “white, English-speaking, Christian males are members of the oppressor class and must atone for their privilege and ‘covert white supremacy’.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Teachers’ unions are using their power and money to perpetuate such teachings. In addition to other efforts, the National Education Association (NEA) is spending at least \$127,000 to promote CRT and issue a study that “critiques empire, white supremacy, anti-blackness, anti-Indigeneity, racism patriarchy, cisheteropatriarchy, capitalism, ableism, anthropocentrism...[and more].”^{iv}

American Federation of Teachers (AFT) President Randi Weingarten continues to repeat the debunked claim that CRT is only taught in law school, “We don’t teach CRT in elementary, middle or high schools.”^v

Arizona Representative Michelle Udall is also a teacher. She attests to the controversial tenets being taught here in some Arizona public schools. In a recent op-ed,^{vi} Rep. Udall confirmed the practice, the National Education Association’s support of CRT, and a disturbing pact by some

defiant public school teachers, “Some Arizona teachers have signed a petition promising to continue teaching critical race theory even if it is banned.”^{vii viii}

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

If approved by voters, HCR 2001 would amend the Arizona Constitution to:

- Prohibit the state from discriminating against anyone on the basis of race or ethnicity when choosing employees, students or contractors
- Ensure public educational institutions do not implement disciplinary action or policy that treats a student or group of students differently based on race or ethnicity
- Ensure public educational institutions do not base access to facilities, services, or grounds on the condition of race or ethnicity
- Assert that any requirement based on racial discrimination violates the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution
- Direct the state Legislature to establish a penalty for willful violation
- Prohibit any employment requirement of a religious or political test, or endorsement, or affirmation of an idea contrary to the Arizona Constitution or the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Prohibit compelled training or orientation for students or employees
- Prohibit employees from using their position to endorse or promote the outlined tenets
- Ensure teachers can discuss historical ideologies, movements or instances of racial hatred or discrimination

TALKING POINTS

1. **There is no place in public school for divisive and racially charged propaganda.**
2. **Ideologues have infiltrated our public schools, pitting students against each other, and shaming some students based on the color of their skin. This was wrong in the ‘60s and it’s wrong now.**
3. **Public schools can teach the regretful history of American racism without perpetuating racism and divisive tenets based in Marxism.**
4. **Public schools can still teach about other cultures without giving a preference for one culture over the other.**

CONCLUSION

Public schools can teach the regretful history of American racism without perpetuating racism and divisive tenets based in Marxism. HCR 2001 would ask voters to prohibit discrimination based on race or ethnicity in teaching and facilitating public education.

ⁱ Critical Race Theory, Heritage Foundation, <https://www.heritage.org/crt> (last viewed February 2022)

ⁱⁱ What critical race theory is really about, Christopher Rufo, New York Post, May 6, 2021 <https://nypost.com/2021/05/06/what-critical-race-theory-is-really-about/> (last viewed February 2022)

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

^{iv} Teacher unions push back on debate over critical race theory, Politico July 6, 2021 <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/weekly-education/2021/07/06/teacher-unions-push-back-on-debate-over-critical-race-theory-796311> (last viewed February 2022)

^v *Ibid.*

^{vi} Some Arizona students are being taught that their race is a problem-and that's a problem, AZ Central, January 30, 2022 <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2022/01/30/some-arizona-students-being-taught-critical-race-theory/9246687002/> (last viewed February 2022).

^{vii} *Ibid.*

^{viii} Pledge to Teach the Truth, Sinn Education Project, January 15, 2022 <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/pledge-to-teach-truth> (last viewed February 2022)