

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 19, 2021

Rebecca S. Pringle
President
National Education Association
1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-3290

Dear Mrs. Pringle:

We write regarding New Business Item 2¹ and New Business Item 39² which were considered and adopted during the National Education Association's (NEA) 2021 Representative Assembly. We are deeply concerned that the NEA, the nation's largest labor union representing over 3 million school faculty, is proposing to "fight back against anti-Critical Race Theory (CRT) rhetoric" by collecting and publicizing information about opponents of CRT.

The United States has come a long way in its effort to promote equality, and CRT is both divisive and detrimental to the progress our nation has made. Simply put, CRT reinforces divisions on strict racial lines. A recent YouGov poll revealed that 58 percent of Americans have an "unfavorable" view of CRT.³ Concerned parents across the country have shared accounts of confused and upset children that are being taught to hate themselves as a consequence of CRT.⁴


Furthermore, while we appreciate the importance of age appropriate accountings of unpleasant aspects of American history, the teachings promoted by CRT, such as the "1619 project", contain historically inaccurate information in an effort to divide Americans.⁵ The central tenet of CRT, which encourages individuals to think of themselves as "oppressors" or "victims" is counterproductive to creating an effective learning environment.

Accordingly, may we know what information the NEA is collecting on critics of CRT? Are you conducting research on American children? For what purpose will this research be used? Why were mentions of New Business Item 2 and New Business Item 39 removed from the NEA.org website?

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator

¹ <https://web.archive.org/web/20210703100622/https://ra.nea.org/business-item/2021-nbi-002/>

² <https://web.archive.org/web/20210704115038/https://ra.nea.org/business-item/2021-nbi-039/>

³ <https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/1oyiu6tamw/econTabReport.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.westernjournal.com/black-parent-goes-off-critical-race-theory-impassioned-school-board-speech/>

⁵ <https://reason.com/2020/01/28/1619-project-new-york-times-public-schools/>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', positioned above a horizontal line.

Marco Rubio
United States Senator