**Draft Legislative Resolution In Support of Academic Freedom**

WHEREAS, an accurate, truthful teaching of race and racism acknowledges that the legacy of slavery, segregation, and the ongoing imposition of second-class citizenship on Black Americans and other people of color continues to permeate the social fabric of this nation; and

WHEREAS, By recognizing how race and racism shape our institutions, faculty and administrators can find innovative ways to value the lived experiences of BIPOC students, prioritize the recruitment and retention of BIPOC faculty and staff, elevate the voices and experiential knowledge of BIPOC, adopt culturally responsive teaching practices and historically accurate US history curriculum, and embrace the traditions of the communities in which they work; and

WHEREAS, Decisions about curriculum and subject matter should be made by educators who have expertise in the subject; and,

WHEREAS, Under principles of academic freedom widely endorsed by the higher education community, college and university teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court’s *Sweezy v. New Hampshire* (1957) decision held that “to impose any straitjacket upon the intellectual leaders in our colleges and universities would imperil the future of our Nation;” and,

WHEREAS, Teaching the truth about race and racism is necessary in order to inform students about existing systemic discriminations; and

WHEREAS, Having an awareness of existing systemic discrimination is necessary in order to solve the problem and build systems that are truly equitable; and

WHEREAS, Learning the truth about race and racism may be uncomfortable, but the central purpose of higher education is to challenge students to think hard about their own perspectives; and

WHEREAS, Growth and learning often require confronting topics that create discomfort, including those related to racism and sexism; and,

WHEREAS, the truthful, accurate teaching of history requires teaching about race, racism, and racial discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, efforts to suppress factual teaching on race and racism, or to erase unpleasant facts about U.S. history is akin to ideological indoctrination; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE [CHAMBER] OF THE STATE OF [STATE], that we affirm the importance and necessity of teaching the truth about race, racism, and systemic discrimination, along with related topics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we affirm the principle of academic freedom and acknowledge its import and neccessity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we fully reject brazen, politically motivated efforts to censor educators, and we recognize and support educators’ right and responsibility to teach on the topics they deem appropriate and/or necessary.