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WESTERLY ARC STATEMENT ON H 6070 RELATING TO EDUCATION - CURRICULUM, 2021

2021 H 6070 RELATING TO EDUCATION - CURRICULUM

We, the undersigned, wish to formally express our concerns with *H 6070 -16-22-34. Prohibition of teaching divisive concepts*. Given our cultural and societal climate and the urgent need to steer directly into historical realities of systemic racism, now is not the time to continue to employ a “color blind” approach to educating Rhode Island’s children.

H 6070 is a distraction from focusing on the symptoms of racism and sexism instead of the causes. It is rooted in the fictitious idea that racism and sexism are essentially over and that these systems have not damaged our society, our economy and our country. Furthermore, the majority of your constituents are against H 6070.

Racism still exists everywhere. It began with the slave trade and has continued over time atrocity by atrocity, injustice by injustice, law by law, neighborhood by neighborhood. For those who disagree with this hard truth by arguing that it is exaggerating our country's racial circumstances and tarnishes our self-image, only make clear they do not understand our American history. Failing to see the greater opportunity to provide all students with a high-quality, developmentally appropriate educational content and instruction rooted in truth, and equity-minded is an injustice to our children and will not advance our shared humanity.

Representatives Morgan, Nardone and Roberts' attempt to deny our American history and the very real experiences so many minorities represents an unwarranted intrusion into the dialogue that so many brave educators and activists are attempting to have right now. We urge the general assembly not to succumb to lies and divisive politics and vote against *H 6070*.

Sincerely,

Westerly Anti-Racist Coalition, Members

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