



# Governor Pete Ricketts

*Growing Nebraska for the Next Generation*

August 10, 2021

To the University of Nebraska Board of Regents:

We write in support of the recently introduced regent resolution which seeks to stop the imposition of Critical Race Theory (CRT) in our University of Nebraska system. While the broader public has only recently become familiar with CRT, we believe it poses a unique and imminent threat to students, our state, and our university system for three reasons: It is racially divisive, anti-American, and is used to attack free speech.

First, CRT contends that America is fundamentally racist and that its institutions are tainted by this racism. Proponents of CRT seek to “fix” America’s racism and achieve “equity” by a process of racial discrimination in which people in our country would be pitted against one another. Rather than identifying specific instances of racism and rooting them out, CRT seeks to define communities based on racial lines and to build public policy and redistribute resources based on skin color.

Our taxpayer dollars are being used to push CRT at the University of Nebraska right now. Last summer, the University of Nebraska declared it was also going on an “antiracist” and “equity” journey led by UNL Chancellor Ronnie Green. Chancellor Green said he would make “antiracism” and “equity” a top priority for the university and would require a reexamination of University policies and curriculum. Similar initiatives at other schools have required students to take courses tainted by CRT and subjected them to racially discriminatory trainings in the name of “equity.”

Second, we know America is great because it was founded on the principle that all men are created equal and that they should have equality before the law. These principles are enshrined in our founding documents. Throughout our history, Americans have worked to cement these principles through the blood, sweat, and grit of millions of Americans of all backgrounds. CRT threatens these principles at the heart of the American founding, and the University should be standing up to—not encouraging—the illiberal forces promoting the use of CRT.

Third, we've already witnessed attempts from the University to silence opposition to the use of CRT. This is what proponents of CRT do. Recently, Chancellor Green's office and the University's Journey Co-Leaders disgustingly claimed supporters of the resolution were unwittingly helping the KKK. This is the mode of operation of CRT proponents — make outrageous claims in an attempt to silence opposition.

The University's response to the resolution is proof that a statement of opposition to CRT is needed from the Board of Regents now more than ever. This resolution simply seeks to prevent the imposition of CRT on students, so the University can protect student voices and academic freedom. It does not prevent discussion of CRT just as other diverse philosophies, religions, and perspectives are discussed every day on campus.

As the board considers this important topic, we strongly urge you to stand with the people of Nebraska in rejecting the use of CRT by passing the resolution banning the imposition of CRT at the University of Nebraska.

Sincerely,



Pete Ricketts, Governor  
State of Nebraska



Mike Foley, Lieutenant Governor  
State of Nebraska



John Murante, Treasurer  
NE State Treasurer Office



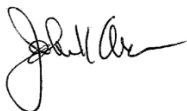
Charlie Janssen, Auditor  
NE Auditor of Public Accounts



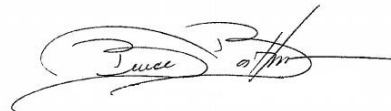
Speaker Mike Hilgers, District 21  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Joni Albrecht, District 17  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator John Arch, District 14  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Bruce Bostelman, District 23  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Tom Brandt, District 32  
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Senator Tom Brewer, District 43  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Tom Briese, District 41  
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Senator Robert Clements, District 2  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Myron Dorn, District 30  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Steve Erdman, District 47  
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Senator Curt Friesen, District 34  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Suzanne Geist, District 25  
NE Unicameral Legislature



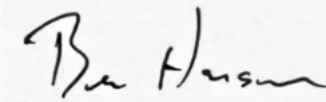
Senator Tim Gragert, District 40  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Mike Groene, District 42  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Steve Halloran, District 33  
NE Unicameral Legislature



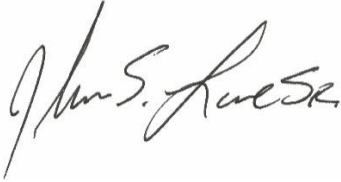
Senator Ben Hansen, District 16  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Dan Hughes, District 44  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Brett Lindstrom, District 18  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator John Lowe Sr., District 37  
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Senator Dave Murman, District 38  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Rita Sanders, District 45  
NE Unicameral Legislature



Senator Julie Slama, District 1  
NE Unicameral Legislature