

PALM BEACH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY- DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
**RESOLUTION AGAINST DESANTIS' SUPPRESSION OF FACTS, KNOWLEDGE, AND TRUTH,
IN HIS ATTACK ON PUBLIC EDUCATION**
DEC Education Committee, March 3, 2022

Whereas, Strong public schools are the heartbeat of our communities, sparking children's imaginations and providing lifelong lessons needed to succeed in our challenging global society; and

Whereas, Democrats and Floridians must fight against the suppression of thought, and the loss of civil rights and liberties which are being used to suppress our vote; and

Whereas, Newly introduced State Legislation of HB 7 and SB 148, regulating how American history can be taught by omitting facts, and HB 1557/SB 1834 which flies against equal and student rights and singles out which "type" of students are valued or not; and

Whereas, These bills overreach historical norms; and

Whereas, The former empowers parents to challenge and sue an educator if they think, however wrongly, that their child is being taught the unbiased history of our country which they claim may make their child feel "uncomfortable"; and

Whereas, Thoughtful parents and educators know that children must have the tools and guidance to honestly face and understand our country's past and present issues to enable them to create a better future; and

Whereas, Unfortunately, the teaching of factual history is under siege; those wishing to curtail academic freedom falsely claim, with no supportive evidence, that Critical Race Theory (CRT) is being taught in K-12 public schools when it is not. CRT has become a "false flag", a common propaganda tactic used by Republican legislators to curtail academic freedom claiming a need to protect white people from "discomfort" caused by acknowledging institutionalized racism, which is part of our country's factual history. However, their underlying goal is to misinform and even scare people to garner their votes. HISTORICAL FACTS cannot be erased nor homogenized. Democrats and Floridians cannot allow public education to become the tool of a police state; and

Whereas, A resurgence of censorship is being used to suppress thought and to dumb down what is taught and how teaching is facilitated in the classroom. This censorship is born out of the fear that knowledge is harder to control than ignorance. Therefore, book banning, emblematic of a trend in countries with faltering democracies, is growing in our own country. Floridians must stop the "WOKE act" and foster Public Education for a better democracy, whether students are Black, White, Latino, Asian, Native-American or newcomers; and, regardless of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, and

Whereas, All of us must demand that children receive an education that encourages higher level thinking to dig deeper into who they are as individuals, who they are capable of being, and who we all are as a nation; and

Whereas, Free speech with civil discourse by debate is seen as a fundamental American right, and though anchored in our Constitution, is currently being tested by a well-organized, well-funded far-right political organization led by Governor DeSantis that through his unchecked power subverts Florida's state legislature to pass laws endangering even these basic Constitutional rights without hesitation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Floridians must combat a biased historical perspective, the loss of civil rights and liberties, and the continued erosion of our basic Constitutional rights by doing everything in our power to elect Democratic candidates willing to affirm our cherished values;

Resolved, That our duty as Democrats and Floridians, united with public school officials, must educate parents and the community at large, to understand the affront to civil rights and equal rights affecting our children – aggravated by DeSantis’ unchecked power; and

Resolved, That all of us must urge the legislative branch to work diligently to adequately fund our public schools and maintain unbiased academic freedom to teach the historical facts of our great country.

This resolution is respectfully submitted to the Palm Beach County Democratic Party, Democratic Executive Committee, on March 3, 2022, on behalf of the PBCDP DEC Education Committee. Dr. Deanna M. Albert, Chair; Dr. Art Jacoby, Vice-Chair; Members: Ellen Baker, Michael Raab, Miriam Hanan, Sylvia Sharps, Dr. Deandre Poole, Dr. Helen Boyd, Phyllis Berkowitz.