

# Faculty Senate

Draft Resolution  
November 16, 2021



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

- Whereas,* State legislative proposals have been introduced across the United States to suppress teaching and learning about race and racism in schools, colleges, and universities. These measures have been signed into law in Idaho, Iowa, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Texas<sup>1</sup>; and,
- Whereas,* In Michigan, a Senate measure was introduced in May 2021 and debated in October barring K-12 school districts and schools from teaching critical race theory, any part of the New York Times’ 1619 Project, or other “anti-American and racist theories” with a 5% penalty funding cut for schools that defy the order.<sup>2</sup> In November 2021, a different measure passed the Michigan House of Representatives<sup>3</sup>; and,
- Whereas,* The Faculty Senate is pleased to see robust public opposition to these laws from MSU faculty and MSU Trustee Rema Vassar; and,
- Whereas,* Nonetheless, the Faculty Senate remains concerned that such bills pose a threat to the right of faculty to teach and students to learn about race and racism in the United States; create a chilling effect on K-12 teachers in addressing race and racism in their classroom; substitute political mandates for the professional judgement of K-12 educators, informed by academic scholarship on these topics; and will lead to students being less well-prepared for discussions of race and racism at the college level; therefore be it,
- Resolved,* That the Faculty Senate affirms the Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism<sup>4</sup> authored by the AAUP, PEN America, the American Historical Association, and the Association of American Colleges & Universities, endorsed by over seventy organizations, and issued on June 16, 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> Sophia Kalakailo, “Critical race theory: What you need to know in Michigan,” BridgeMI.com, July 6, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> “Michigan lawmakers debate bill to ban critical race theory in schools,” MLIVE.com, October 5, 2021 (updated October 11).

<sup>3</sup> Tracie Mauriello, “Michigan House passes bill Democrats say would whitewash Black history,” November 3, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aaup.org/news/joint-statement-efforts-restrict-education-about-racism#YYrg3GDMKUI>.