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House Bill 1256
Family Law – Removal of Child From Home - Meetings
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****OPPOSE****

The Franklin Law Group, P.C. (FLG) is a child advocacy law firm that has provided legal representation to children in abuse and neglect proceedings in six-jurisdictions across the State of Maryland since 2007. The FLG strongly opposes House Bill 1256.

Despite its stated purpose of, “Ending Discrimination in Public Education Act of 2022,” this bill, in fact perpetuates discrimination. This is a veiled, “*anti-critical race theory*” bill committed to: 1) racial/ethnic inequities; 2) inaccurate, untruthful historical education; and 3) perpetuation of white “superiority,” dominance, and centeredness.

A. Veiled “*Anti-Critical Race Theory*” Bill

This bill, although expressing its commitment to “*ending discrimination*” is actually discriminatory. Its intent is to ban “*critical race theory*” as an approach to education equity. Critical race theory empowers learners to critique systems of racial oppression rooted in systemic structures (laws, policies, and institutions) through the teaching of truthful and accurate history and its impact on present-day racism and disparities that impact, in particular, Black people who are descendants of captive and enslaved Africans in the U.S. (DCAUS)¹; other Black ethnicities; and other “*colored*” communities. This bill attempts to censor educators and administrators from their commitment to molding young minds to critically think and dismantle racism and racial inequities that exist in the U.S. It is a poignant example of the manipulative ways this nation holds steadfast to false and untruthful narratives about who it is and its founding in order to preserve its present white power structure and narrative of “superiority.”

B. Commitment to Maintenance of the White Power Structure

This bill attempts to maintain white dominance and centeredness through eliminating approaches in public schools that critique the white, U.S. power structure, and undermine the value and contributions of the Black DCAUS community and their Ancestors to the building

¹ Stephanie S. Franklin, Esq. “*In Search of Reparatory Justice: A Child-Family Welfare Act for Black Descendants of Captive and Enslaved Africans in the U.S.*” The Guardian – National Association of Counsel for Children, p. 3-4 (Fall 2020).

and power of the U.S. globally. U.S history, as its taught currently, maintains a racial hierarchy and caste system that places whites as the top racial group and Blacks, specifically DCAUS peoples, at the bottom racial group. Throughout curricula taught across this nation, outright disrespect for the history, experiences, and contributions that Black DCAUS peoples have made to this nation is prominent. Untruthful teaching of history has erased the intrinsic, insidious systemic racism that has impacted Black DCAUS peoples in every aspect of human life, from education; to housing; to economics; to health/mental health; to involvement with the police; to child welfare; to delinquency; to criminal justice, and the like. Perpetual policies and laws implemented to curtail and maintain Black DCAUS peoples and other Black peoples as a bottom caste remains an issue tied to historic policies, laws, and practices that are destroying our families and communities presently. Empowering young minds with the truth is our responsibility as a state, and as a nation.

Moreover, Section B (4) of this bill states, “*Members of one race or sex cannot, and should not, attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex.*” This bill, in its attempt to eliminate “*discriminatory concepts in instruction,*” is disrespectful of the Black DCAUS community’s and other Black ethnicities’ history and experience in this state and country, and it furthers the systemic oppression built on the backs of Black DCAUS peoples that was experienced in the past and persists today.

Furthermore, its statement in Section (B)(6), “*an individual, because of the individual’s race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other individuals of the same race or sex,*” is a masked attempt to eliminate critique of the white power structure’s culpability in historic injuries and responsibilities for redress. It attempts to undermine active efforts for racial equity and reparations for Black DCAUS peoples through education and other mechanisms.

In conclusion, this is a disguised political attempt to join the efforts of other *anti-critical race theory activists* across the nation to ban *critical race theory* as an approach to dismantling systemic racism and anti-racism efforts.

Therefore, we strongly urge this Committee to give an unfavorable report.