



HR0365

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, With the ongoing police shootings and the
3 post-George Floyd movement, it is imperative Congress makes
4 federal grants available for President Biden's push for
5 teaching critical race theory in schools and to law
6 enforcement; and

7 WHEREAS, Critical race theory critiques how the social
8 construction of race and institutionalized racism perpetuate a
9 racial caste system that relegates people of color to the
10 bottom tiers of society; it also recognizes that race
11 intersects with other identities, including sexuality, gender
12 identity, and others; critical race theory acknowledges that
13 the legacy of slavery, segregation, and the imposition of
14 second-class citizenship on Black Americans and other people
15 of color continues to permeate the social fabric of this
16 nation; and

17 WHEREAS, 70 years after Brown V. Board of Education, many
18 children still attend segregated schools; there are continual
19 funding disparities between majority Black and majority White
20 schools; BIPOC, or Black, Indigenous, and people of color,
21 students are disproportionately suspended and funneled into
22 special education programs; and

1 WHEREAS, The majority of principals and teachers are
2 White, even as their students are not; this means that many
3 administrators are unable to fully perceive how racism
4 operates without specific training; and

5 WHEREAS, Critical race theory calls upon principals and
6 teachers to examine how history, politics, culture, and
7 economics inform our understanding of race, racism, and other
8 forms of marginalization; without this framework, principals
9 and teachers may be committed to racial justice but be unable
10 to translate their commitments into action; and

11 WHEREAS, By recognizing how race and racism shape our
12 institutions, principals and teachers can find innovative ways
13 to value the lived experiences of BIPOC families, prioritize
14 the recruitment and retention of BIPOC faculty and staff,
15 elevate the voices and experiential knowledge of BIPOC, adopt
16 culturally responsive teaching practices and historically
17 accurate U.S. history curriculum, and embrace the traditions
18 of the communities in which they work; and

19 WHEREAS, As in the field of education, teaching critical
20 race theory to law enforcement officers would have incredible
21 benefits; many of our nation's systems and structures,
22 including the legal system, were created when people of color
23 were denied full participation in American society; many law

1 enforcement officers do not understand how the justice system
2 was shaped and continues to work against people of color; and

3 WHEREAS, Taking critical race theory courses helps law
4 enforcement officers come face-to-face with the reality that,
5 not too long ago, police officers played an active role in the
6 enforcement of many of the discriminatory and racist laws of
7 the time; and

8 WHEREAS, Many law enforcement departments do not reflect
9 the diverse population they serve; with critical race theory,
10 law enforcement officers can understand the history of BIPOC
11 citizens and see how they were and are viewed by the people in
12 the community they serve; and

13 WHEREAS, A new rule proposed by the U.S. Education
14 Department states financial grants could be used to encourage
15 schools to "incorporate teaching and learning practices that
16 reflect the diversity, identities, histories, contributions,
17 and experiences of all students"; and

18 WHEREAS, The use of federal grants to encourage the
19 teaching of critical race theory to students and to law
20 enforcement would be a critical step forward in the fight to
21 dismantle racist structures and systems that are still present
22 in our nation; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we urge the Congress of the United States to make available to
4 schools and law enforcement agencies federal grants which
5 support the teaching of critical race theory; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
8 presented to U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy
9 Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and all members
10 of Congress.