

Resolution Calling on Governor Youngkin to Rescind his Divisive Order on the Teaching of History

Sponsored by Chris Suarez, Paul Friedman, Alex Sprague, and Benjamin Dawes

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 7 of the Virginia Constitution vests the supervision of schools in each school division in a school board;

WHEREAS, Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order Number One [1], which purports to ban instruction of “inherently divisive concepts,” which he broadly defines to include topics of conscious and subconscious bias and other topics that seek to address and rectify the historical inequities faced by marginalized ethnic and racial groups in Virginia;

WHEREAS, Governor Youngkin has created a “tip line” on the Internet to permit parents to promote reporting of teachers, schools, and school divisions that teach the allegedly “divisive concepts” outlined in the Executive Order;

WHEREAS, numerous groups, including the Virginia Education Association [2], have condemned the tip line as a mechanism to alienate, and possibly terminate, educators who are teaching about the documented history of the United States;

WHEREAS Executive Order Number One opens the door for teachers to be punished for teaching objective facts about American history;

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Democratic Committee believes in the rights of educators to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion by creating awareness of historical inequities, and other concepts that perpetuate racial and economic inequality in Virginia and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Governor Youngkin’s Executive Order Number One is itself divisive, conflicts with the local authority of school boards, and seeks to divide citizens and school divisions throughout the commonwealth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alexandria Democratic Committee

- Asks our Legislative Delegation in Richmond to push for the Governor to rescind his executive order;
- Urges the Alexandria school board to not allow Executive Order One to prevent teachers from presenting accurate and documented American history; and
- Thanks the Virginia Education Association for their position and leadership on this issue.

References:

[1] <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/74---eo/74--eo/EO-1---ENDING-THE-USE-OF-INHERENTLY-DIVISIVE-CONCEPTS,-INCLUDING-CRITICAL-RACE-THEORY,-AND-RESTORING-EXCELLEN.pdf>

[2] <https://wset.com/news/local/teacher-tip-line-virginia-prank-tips-fake-tips-governor-glenn-youngkin-divisive-critical-race-theory-mask-mandates-virginia-schools-january-31-2022>