

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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99TH DISTRICT

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 DATE: February 2, 2026

COMMITTEE: House Education Committee

BILL: HB 2428

WHAT: In-person testimony

Members of the Committee,

As one of the sponsors of the bill, I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 2428 concerning DEI mandates in the postsecondary educational system in Kansas. The bill is necessary due to the continuation of the teaching of DEI-CRT ideology in Kansas universities. While the universities are addressing the administrative side of DEI-CRT ideology, the presence of the ideology in required, or mandated, courses (such as introductory English courses or freshman seminars), necessitated this bill.

The bill basically has 3 sections. First, it provides several remedies for the teaching of DEI-CRT in mandated courses. Students will not be required to enroll in such courses as a condition of satisfying a program requirement. The bill also protects professors from being forced to participate in DEI-CRT oriented courses or mandates if they choose not to teach these courses. Faculty still have the academic freedom to employ DEI-CRT in their own classes at their own discretion; the bill simply prevents mandates in the form of DEI-CRT courses for all students.

The bill allows the discussion of controversial issues in history and allows an exemption for ethnic, racial and women's studies programs. The bill is not an assault on academic freedom. Courses in ethnic, gender, or racial studies are exempted from this requirement, but courses in those areas cannot be employed as requirements for fulfillment of a student's program if they are not majoring in those areas.

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Secondly, the bill also includes a requirement that students' complete courses which include discussion of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other forms of American government, as well as the distinction between ideologies like communism and totalitarianism, and democracy. We believe most introductory American national government courses are doing this already, but this section provides guideposts for assuring outcomes which would enhance knowledge and respect for American democratic institutions.

Finally, as universities offer more freshman seminars, we believe it crucial that those seminars offer intellectual diversity and discussions of free speech and the need for debate of all viewpoints as a basis for a healthy university. DEI-CRT content may be offered in these seminars provided that they are balanced by contrary and critical assessments and not simply an end run around the desire to end mandated DEI-CRT courses.

NOW . . . For a little history lesson . . .

DEI-CRT ideology has a long history in postwar America, yet it is rooted in what is known as cultural Marxism, first put forth by Italian communist Antonio Gramsci. The idea was to propagate a cultural war against the dominant class which would destroy their hegemonic control over the culture and subvert their dominance to advance revolutionary goals. At the universities in western Europe and America this became a dominant theme in the 1960s with the writings of Herbert Marcuse and the integration of his ideas into the Black Power movement and the New Left. Using cultural Marxism as a clarion bell, the professors and students of these movements made a long march through the institutions to propagate their views on personal liberation, and to eradicate the cultural hegemony of white people, colonialism and any other traditional viewpoint. Known for a long time as multiculturalism, or being politically correct, the development of an explicit DEI-CRT ideology is recent in universities and accelerated after the 2020 death of George Floyd and the development of intersectional radical ideologies in the trans movement and other social change movements.

To close . . . Why should publicly funded Kansas universities mandate the teaching of cultural Marxism? It is high time we act to take back the institutions which receive generous funding so that they teach American values rather than propagate Marxist ones. I recommend passage of HB 2428 as a path forward to defending and teaching American values.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Humphries
Kansas House of Representative, District 99