

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 11, 2022

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ALABAMIANS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY'S SPOKESMAN
ADDRESSES ALABAMA HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION POLICY

On February 2nd, Dr. Earl Tilford of Alabamians for Academic Excellence and Integrity spoke to an informational session held by Representative Terri Collins, Chair of the Education Policy Committee, for members of her committee and other interested legislators to learn about Critical Race Theory (CRT). Dr. Tilford stated that to pass a bill forbidding teaching CRT may be irrelevant because CRT is not taught in Alabama's K-12 schools as such. Elements of CRT, however, are included in K-12 curricula such as the *New York Times 1619 Project* which is promoted to teachers by groups like the Pulitzer Center <https://pulitzercenter.org/>.

As a number of historians have pointed out, *1619 Project* distorts and politicizes American history by asserting slavery was fundamental to this nation's foundation 157 years before the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and the US Constitution and Bill of Rights that followed. The complexities of American history should be taught objectively based on historic facts that have not been manipulated in service to a political agenda. Divisive concepts of "white fragility," "white privilege," committing of "micro-aggressions" and similar topics are also included in curricula heavily based on the assumptions of CRT.

Dr. Tilford also discussed how college and university administrators and faculties implement CRT through offices for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The University of Alabama does this via a five-year strategic plan which, when fully implemented in 2025, will require faculty be hired according to DEI guidelines on race, gender, color and sexual orientation, and then annually evaluated on how DEI is incorporated into curricula. Tenure and promotion must consider activism among previously unrepresented segments of the community and mentorship to minority students along with pedagogy, research and scholarly publication. He stated that politicization of the academy is inimical to the pursuit of academic excellence.

According to Dr. Tilford “There should be no objection to teaching CRT as a theory in higher education, but it should not be promoted through DEI as an overarching agenda that demands ideological conformity of administrators, faculty and students. That is the very opposite of academic freedom.”

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