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25 May 2023

Dear Chancellor Guskiewicz,

I'm writing on behalf of Our America to praise UNC's decision to reject the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine Task Force recommendations to condition tenure and promotion on commitments to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI).<sup>1</sup>

As you may know, earlier this academic year we sent a letter to East Carolina University criticizing its decision to adopt Critical Race Theory (CRT) as a guiding principle.<sup>2</sup> Then, in late January we wrote to you with concerns about three exclusionary scholarships the school offered which required the students to be Black or a person of color.<sup>3</sup>

CRT and DEI principles have become incredibly popular in higher education as schools seek ways to build a welcoming environment for students and faculty alike.

Yet, instead of building bridges with marginalized communities, these principles have, time and again, been shown to divide students from their peers. Let's not forget the time Brown University banned White and Asian students from enrolling in a "mindfulness" course<sup>4</sup> or at Arizona State University where two students were kicked out of a multicultural center because of their race.<sup>5</sup>

Diversity is one of America's greatest strengths. We should work to embrace one another as it creates bonds which can stand the test of time. But skin-deep diversity is not enough. If we

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See https://www.thefire.org/news/victory-unc-chapel-hill-rejects-task-force-recommendation-shows-why-its-green-light-school

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See https://joinouramerica.org/east-carolina-university-refuses-to-respond-to-our-america-letter/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See https://thenationaldesk.com/news/americas-news-now/unc-again-accused-of-excluding-certain-racial-groups-from-scholarship-programs-chapel-hill-black-indigenous-and-people-of-color-bipoc-do-no-harm-civil-rights-act-crisis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See https://nypost.com/2022/06/23/brown-university-mindfulness-course-offered-only-to-minority-students

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See https://www.newsweek.com/video-white-students-leave-multicultural-space-viral-1632411

are serious about creating an inclusive environment for all Americans, we must emphasize the importance of tolerating and embracing people's academic and intellectual diversity.

Everyone has a unique voice and they should have the right to express their views.

Once again, I praise UNC's decision to reject the task force's recommendations. You are lighting the way for schools to return to the true purpose of higher education, mainly the pursuit of truth.

Gabriel Nadales

National Director

Our America