

**Statement on Proposed Regents' Resolution**  
**July 21, 2021**

The Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska, or AFCON, is a coalition of organizations and individuals that has been supporting the intellectual freedom of Nebraska students, teachers, researchers, and librarians since 1988.

We were dismayed when we noticed that Governor Pete Ricketts recently posted a tweet referring to, and including, Jim Pillen's proposed resolution that concludes "Be it resolved that the Regents of the University of Nebraska oppose any imposition of Critical Race Theory in curriculum." Jim Pillen retweeted this post, thereby verifying that the proposal comes from him, and that the wording is correct, or is at least a draft of the proposed resolution. This proposed resolution, if adopted, would violate the principles of academic freedom and the Board of Regents' own bylaws.

Section 4.2 of the Regents bylaws states in part that the work of the University "requires the preservation of intellectual freedoms of teaching, expression, research, and debate. The right to search for truth, to support a position the searcher believes is the truth, and to disagree with others whose intellect reaches a different conclusion is the fiber of America's greatness. It is, likewise, the strength of a great University, and its preservation is vital."

For a member of the Board of Regents to oppose the teaching of certain materials by NU faculty, and thereby seek to limit intellectual freedom, is therefore deeply concerning, and to do so in the name of promoting "inclusive and honest dialogue and education" makes this resolution even more troubling.

We therefore call on the Board of Regents to reject this proposed violation of its own bylaws and to emphatically reaffirm academic freedom.