

KIM DAVID HAMMER

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**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

CHAIR:
JOINT RETIREMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY

MEMBER:
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JOINT BUDGET
INSURANCE & COMMERCE
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & LABOR

July 15, 2021

The Honorable Johnny Key
Secretary of the Department of Education
Commissioner – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Secretary Key:

We write today to express our sincere concern with the recent announcement of Arkansas Governor's School curriculum and agenda for the 2021 term. We believe that the teaching of racist or hateful theory through the spending of taxpayer dollars is a disservice to our students and a misuse of the public trust.

Arkansas Governor's School, since its inception in 1979, is committed to investment in the state's most promising students, those who will be innovators in government, economics, professions, and community or public service. In a time of increased political polarity, we cannot allow or encourage further division based on factors such as race, gender, or socioeconomic background.

As we strive for a more unified state and nation, our first duty is to our students and to our tax-paying constituents. Arkansas Governor's School and other state-funded educational programs must ensure that students are granted a well-rounded experience which will prepare them for positions of leadership. We cannot allow the personal and professional development to be hindered by prejudiced rhetoric and radical theories which perpetuate a divisive environment.

In keeping with the most recent session of the Arkansas General Assembly, we ask that the Arkansas Department of Education halt such prejudiced rhetoric and teaching of radical theories immediately and that alternate instruction be found for the students' academic schedule. We urge you to consider this with the utmost care for the continued success and progress of Arkansas and its most valuable of future leaders.

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Letter – Senator Kim D. Hammer
Thursday, July 15, 2021

Sincerely,



Kim D. Hammer
State Senator
District 31



Cecile Bledsoe
State Senator
District 3



Jason Rapert
State Senator
District 35



Gary Stubblefield
State Senator
District 6



Terry Rice
State Senator
District 9



Trent Garner
State Senator
District 27



Mark Johnson
State Senator
District 15



Charles Beckham
State Senator
District 12



Dan Sullivan
State Senator
District 21



Ben Gilmore
State Senator
District 26