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## Why We Must Take a Stand

At AAPF, we've been telling partners since Trump's first attacks on CRT in October 2020, that a defensive message like "CRT is not even taught in public schools" is ineffective. It unwittingly endorses the defamatory dimensions of the assaults on antiracist education by implying that it is acceptable to root out CRT from K-12 classrooms where it is in use. Once the defamatory critique of critical race thinking is implicitly conceded, the battle turns into whether a particular lesson, book, or author falls inside or outside of the embargoed material. Distancing moves such as these do not work because they fail to contend with the real objective to undermine and eliminate anti-racist curricula and pedagogy.

## The Affirmative Case for Critical Race Theory

### How to define Critical Race Theory:

- Critical Race Theory is a prism for seeing the multiple ways that race and racism have been constructed in America.
- CRT is also an everyday, dedicated practice that seeks to understand patterns of racial disempowerment in order to dismantle it.
- CRT asks why inequalities like the wealth gap persist and even grow over time, and what role the law has play in facilitating and rationalizing these inequalities?
- CRT is simply the translation of the wisdom, consciousness, and observations about the landscape of American society that generations of Black folks passed on to survive.

### Benefits to Teaching Critical Race Theory

- **Understanding.** To understand the present, one has to understand the past. And, that's exactly what those who support the crusade against CRT don't want us thinking about.

- **Inclusive.** It promotes an accurate honest and inclusive history of America; and it reveals how injustices in the past continue to create barriers that some Americans face that others do not.
- **Unifying.** In so doing, Critical Race Theory combats division and promotes unity.

### **Risks of Banning Critical Race Theory**

- **Teachers' Risk.** Teachers accused of teaching about diversity or inclusion have been fired, received death threats. School districts face budget cuts just for trying to teach the truth.