

**From:** [Jason Hagglund](#)  
**To:** [Timothy Clare](#); [Jack Stark](#); [James Pillen](#); [Elizabeth O'Connor](#); [Robert Schafer](#); [Paul Kenney](#); [Robert Phares](#); [Barbara Weitz](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on the Critical Race Theory Resolution  
**Date:** Friday, July 9, 2021 9:00:27 AM

---

## Non-NU Email

---

Regents,

Governor Ricketts has claimed on Twitter that you intend to vote on a resolution addressing Critical Race Theory in the coming weeks, at the urging of Jim Pillen, one of your fellow Regents and an announced candidate for governor.  
<https://twitter.com/GovRicketts/status/1413253892494725120>

This letter is meant not only to urge you to vote no on any such resolution, but to further urge you to rebuke both Governor Ricketts and Jim Pillen for using public resources for their own crass political purposes. Jim Pillen should withdraw this resolution with a public apology or be pressured to resign from the Board of Regents to remove a glaringly obvious conflict of interest.

The resolution is narrow minded, amateurish, and self-contradictory. No self-respecting professor in the University of Nebraska system would give a passing grade to this rubbish. No serious intellectual proposition uses unqualified statements like "Whereas America is the best country in the world and anyone can achieve the American dream here" - if such things were self-evidently true, they would not require a resolution from a university board of regents to validate them. This resolution reflects not a whit of understanding of what Critical Race Theory actually is - if it did, it would be very clear that it's guilty of none of the things the resolution accuses it of. In fact, it is this very resolution that wishes to suppress intellectual inquiry and academic freedom - it is guilty of the very charges it levels against CRT! You cannot on the one hand claim you stand for academic freedom and then push for a wholesale ban on a particular area of academic interest, and expect to be taken seriously.

This is very reminiscent of "memory laws" that have been used by past and present authoritarian regimes, in addition to other anti-CRT efforts in other states. I would encourage all of you to read a recent essay in the New York Times Magazine, written by Yale history professor Timothy Snyder, that makes very clear the dangerous road resolutions like this seek to travel.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/29/magazine/memory-laws.html>

I am a Nebraska resident and a father of 4 children, all of whom may well consider higher education in the University of Nebraska system. I am watching you and I am teaching my

children to reject nonsense like this. In this household, we will not be propagandized by those who merely wish to desperately gain and keep power. In this household, our money backs up our values. I am confident that if you choose to pass resolutions like this and travel down this dark path, members of this household will not reward you with future matriculation at your campuses. Reject this nonsense and take further precautions to ensure that you are not used as a tool for similar schemes in the future.

Vote no on this farce of a resolution, and in the meantime ask Jim Pillen to either withdraw it with public apology or resign from the board.

Sincerely,

Jason Hagglund

