

## **Resolution Opposing Censorship in Education and Curriculum in the California School System**

**WHEREAS** inclusive education teaches students critical information pertinent to history, identity, and culture, enabling students to feel empowered and connected through education; nonetheless, nationwide, some legislators and school districts have furthered efforts to censor and ban inclusive education curriculum as well as discourage open conversation and discourse regarding topics about racial identity and LGBTQ+ issues; and

**WHEREAS** the US Supreme Court 6-3 decision on *Mahmoud v. Taylor* ruled that parents must be informed if schools expose students to curriculum or books including LGBTQ+ themes, which ruling has had a broad impact, as seen in the *My Shadow Is Pink* case in San Diego, where schools were legally mandated to notify parents that the curriculum included topics related to queerness, just one example of this kind of education censorship, which risks erasing historical events and removing access to diverse materials that are critical to students' education and also furthers risks for discrimination and prejudice against students of marginalized backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS** California has made efforts to legally protect diverse education and curriculum with the signing of AB 1078, as well as the FAIR EDUCATION ACT, but there remains an underlying threat due to the Trump administration's anti-DEI efforts which seek to impose nationwide changes in education and curriculum, the "Protect the Children" movement, which is deeply rooted in racist and bigoted methodology and looks to further conservatism agendas, threatening bipartisan approaches when developing legislation about the education system; and harmful legislation seeks to ban books, including *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Great Gatsby*, and thousands of others, and this movement has been successful in banning certain Advanced Placement courses, like AP Psychology and AP African American Studies, which have been prohibited in states like Florida, and ongoing efforts such as these stand in conflict with the First Amendment and threaten the education system as a whole;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party opposes the censorship of inclusive education information and materials, including book bans and subject restrictions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Members of Congress who represent any part of Santa Clara County as well as the California Department of Education.

**Submitted by Varsha Garigipati**