

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2022
The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We are writing to you out of concern with your decision¹ to appoint a “Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice” as part of the State Department’s “Equity Action Plan,” which President Biden’s E.O. 13895 directed all federal agencies to produce.

The Biden administration’s executive order includes terms like “advancing racial equity,” “ending systemic racism,” and “countering disinformation.”² This is the exact same language used by left-wing politicians, academics, media companies and corporations to justify new kinds of discrimination,³ censorship⁴ and other measures to take away American’s rights and divide our country. Such radical ideology has no place in the United States and exporting it will hurt our image abroad.

Our concern is that “Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice” will build on the Biden State Department’s track record of promoting Critical Race Theory ideology and that our adversaries like China will pounce upon any statements made by the appointee apologizing for America’s human rights record.

The State Department last year invited the “U.N. Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism” and “the U.N. Special Rapporteur on minority issues” for an official visit to examine the U.S. human rights record. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, E. Tendayi Achiume, is a member of the critical race studies program and is a proponent of Critical Race Theory.⁵ This is self-defeating, given the anti-Americanism is a key part of Critical Race

¹ <https://dailycaller.com/2022/06/08/exclusive-state-department-prepares-to-announce-worldwide-racial-equity-chief-leaked-email-shows/>

² <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Equity-Action-Plan-Website-04132022.pdf>

³ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ginaheeb/2021/04/29/white-farmers-sue-biden-administration-alleging-racial-discrimination-in-stimulus-package/?sh=3e3621573754>

⁴ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/04/29/disinformation-governance-board-dhs/>

⁵ <https://law.ucla.edu/faculty/faculty-profiles/e-tendayi-achiume>

Theory.⁶ China, our chief adversary, understands that Critical Race Theory weakens the United States, which is why one of the Communist Party's propaganda outlets, China Global Television, has promoted Critical Race Theory in the United States. In official diplomatic settings, China has claimed a false equivalence between the imprisonment of Uighurs in concentration camps and the U.S.'s "challenges... in human rights" which are "deep-seated" and led to the "Black Lives Matter" movement.⁷

The State Department's left-wing social agenda is not limited to supporting Critical Race Theory. Under your leadership, the State Department has worked to remove restrictions on abortion around the globe. Last year, you outlined the State Department's "full commitment to promote and protect the sexual and reproductive health of all individuals...around the world."⁸ It flew the Pride flag at the U.S. Embassy in Vatican City in a transparent provocation at tenets of Christianity. To placate the far Left, the State Department has created a new passport "X gender marker" designations for people of "unspecified or another gender identity."⁹

The Republican Study Committee is firmly opposed to attempts to use federal agencies to push the left's cultural priorities at home and abroad. The RSC's proposed FY2023 Budget would ban federal funds from being used by the State Department to promote anti-American ideas such as Critical Race Theory.

As members of the Republican Study Committee, we are committed to providing oversight of the State Department's disastrous foreign policy blunders. Given your use of the State Department to promote radical, divisive, and destructive cultural policies, please answer the following questions:

1. Why should Americans support the creation of a position whose raison d'être is predicated upon promulgating an ideology most Americans oppose?
2. How does the promotion of divisive CRT and of radical gender ideology promote U.S. national interests abroad?
3. Please provide a list of organizations and entities which the new special representative intends on providing funding or support to abroad.
4. Will you commit to instructing the new Special Representative for Racial Equity and Racial Justice to not apologize for American human rights record and the progress that the U.S. has made in protecting the human rights of all since 1776?
5. Will you commit to stop weaponizing culture war issues in diplomatic settings, given that many American and populations across the globe do not agree with your stances on those issues?
6. Will you instruct the Department to push back at every possible juncture against China's criticism of America's human rights record? Will you refrain from pushing culture war narratives that feed into China and other adversaries' hands?

⁶ <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/some-examples-of-critical-race-theory-in-schools>

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/19/us-china-talks-alaska-biden-blinken-sullivan-wang>

⁸ <https://www.state.gov/briefings/department-press-briefing-november-04-2021/>

⁹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/04/10/transgender-passport-x-gender-option-risks/>

Furthermore, we request that you provide all documents and communications related to the establishment of the Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice. We request these documents no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, June 24th.

Thank you very much for your attention on this matter and we are looking forward to hearing your responses to these very important questions soon.

Sincerely,



Jim Banks
Chairman, Republican Study Committee



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress




John Rose
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Lisa McClain
Member of Congress



Alex Mooney
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Troy Nehls
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress