

**From:** [Peel, Jackson](#)  
**To:** [FLHouseDems](#)  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The Florida Legislative Black Caucus Responds to Governor Ron DeSantis' Blatant Attack on the Teaching of Black History  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 12:44:04 PM

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January 24, 2023

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**The Florida Legislative Black Caucus Responds to Governor Ron DeSantis' Blatant Attack on the Teaching of Black History**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – This past week Governor Ron DeSantis and his Department of Education released statements announcing the banning of the College Board's Advanced Placement African American History course. The Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz Jr. released a statement saying that various sections of the curriculum violate the State's "Stop WOKE" law that passed last session. The news comes as a shock to many around the State and has prompted this response from the Legislative Black Caucus.

**Representative Dianne Hart (D- Tampa) Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, Chair of Region 6 of the National Caucus of Black State Legislators** issued the following statement:

"The purposeful erasure of Black history, people, and culture from our State and its schools by this Governor is simply appalling. Black history is American history and should be respected and taught just as every other aspect of history, including the other voluntary AP courses that AP African American History was a part of. This has gone on for far too long, and one must ask the question what are you afraid of? Are you afraid that by learning the truth about American history that Black children will want revenge? Are you afraid that the truth about what has transpired in America will ruin the vain perspective of American Exceptionalism that we push on the world? Or are you afraid that your children and grandchildren will see you in their textbooks as the direct antithesis of "All men are created equal"?"

Ron DeSantis has proven that he sees no value in the history and the lives of Black people. It is with that in mind that we can no longer sit idly by and continue to allow others to control our story. We must think critically about how to take the teaching of our history into our own hands and bring it to our community. We will be calling on the NAACP, National Council of Negro Women, Clerical Leaders, National Panhellenic Council and others to join us in the Reestablishing "Freedom Schools" (Community gatherings) with the sole purpose of educating our children about their

rich and triumphant history so that they will not have to wait on a state or Governor to see the value in their history, but they will know for themselves.”

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