

JIM BANKS
THIRD DISTRICT, INDIANA



COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
STRATEGIC COMPETITION
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1403

October 25, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer Hoppenstedt
Interim Inspector General
Minnesota Department of Education

Dear Mrs. Hoppenstedt,

I'm writing to you regarding the appointment of Brian Lozenski to an "Ethnic Studies Working Group" by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's Department of Education.

According to the Minnesota Department of Education, Governor Walz's working group "is responsible for developing an Ethnic Studies framework and resources to support school districts and charters in implementing the Ethnic Studies requirements." The working group is supposed to develop the framework by October 31, 2024.

Mr. Lozenski is a critical race theory advocate and associate professor of urban and multicultural education at Macalester College. He apparently was selected to sit on the working group following his advocacy for Minnesota House bill 1502, which established the ethnic studies working group, because of his experience teaching ethnic studies in St. Paul Public Schools. He also founded a group called Education for Liberation Minnesota, which advocates for additional ethnic studies curriculum in Minnesota public schools. Unsurprisingly, a closer look at Mr. Lozenski's past statements reveals radical political views that should disqualify him from working in public education and certainly from developing a statewide curriculum.

Recently publicized video shows Mr. Lozenski describing why he supports critical race theory and why he identifies himself as "a critical race theorist." Mr. Lozenski's explanation is worth quoting at length:

"The first tenet of critical race theory is that the United States as constructed is irreversibly racist. So if the nation-state as constructed is irreversibly racist, then it must be done with, it must be overthrown, right..."


It's [critical race theory's] about overthrow. It's insurgent. And we, we need to be, I think, more honest with that..."

You can't be a critical race theorist and be pro-U.S. Okay, it is an anti-state theory that says, The United States needs to be deconstructed, period."

Mr. Lozenski has clearly explained, publicly and on video, that he supports the deconstruction and overthrow of the United States because our nation is irredeemably racist and evil. This is a radical and destructive worldview, that, because of Governor Walz's recent signing of Minnesota's education law, will be taught to thousands of children across your state.

I am calling on you to investigate Mr. Lozenski's history of advocating for insurrection against the United States, and to investigate whether Mr. Lozenski's radical, anti-America views influenced the Minnesota's Ethnic Studies Working Group development of its Ethnic Studies framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Banks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jim Banks
Member of Congress