



The State Employees' Association of New Hampshire, Inc
Service Employees International Union, Local 1984, CTW, CLC

June 30, 2021

SEA Response to New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu's Diversity and Inclusion Council Resignation

We stand in solidarity with the ten members of New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu's Diversity and Inclusion Council who have resigned in protest of the new law that puts restrictions on teaching and training on topics like structural racism and sexism and restricts how public school teachers and other government employees can talk about American history.

The attack on our workers' fundamental rights to free speech, which is guaranteed by statute, as well as our State and Federal Constitutions, is unacceptable and must be reversed immediately. We further fear this law may directly contradict existing contract language with several of our bargaining units, especially those who work in higher education and have a well-established right to academic freedom.

RSA 98-E preserves the right of free speech to public employees and specifically provides for the right of said employees to be able to criticize the government and its policies. The newly adopted language in RSA 10-C:1(II)(b) threatens to limit that right by preventing public employees from expressing their views in certain forums that the State government might be racist.

We support the ACLU NH's actions and will be a steadfast ally in their efforts to undo this dangerous and antiquated law.