



Dear ASA member,

By now you have probably read about the decision in Florida to remove “Principles of Sociology” from the state’s general education core course options. We are grateful to our members in Florida and beyond who have been working hard to make the case for the value of sociology. ASA has also been working hard to advocate for our discipline in Florida and in other states facing the prospect of similar decisions.

In advance of the final Florida decision, ASA submitted a [public comment](#) objecting to the proposal, joining in an effort undertaken by many local sociologists who shared deeply compelling arguments in writing and in person. Once the decision was made, ASA responded with comment to the media, leading to extensive coverage in outlets including the [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), [Huff Post](#), [Guardian](#), [Fox News](#), and [Tampa Bay Times](#). We’ve reached out directly to relevant Florida staff and will continue lobbying members of the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida and counterparts in the Florida College System with hope for a reversal. We’re hoping an op-ed from ASA leadership on the danger of politicizing education will soon be in press.

Thanks to the sociology department chairs in Florida and all of their colleagues for standing strong in the face of this enormous challenge and continuing to do everything possible to ensure students are exposed to sociology. We’ve reached out to departments in solidarity and with some hope for partnership in making a collective case. We’re also partnering with a variety of other associations and coalitions concerned with the issue of political interference in educational decisions.

This is going to be a long process and we don’t anticipate quick results, but we will continue to advocate strongly for sociology and sociologists and hope that sociologists around the country will continue to join us in these efforts. We will soon be launching a multi-pronged initiative focused on fighting against the incursion of politics into classrooms and curricular decisions and supporting sociologists whose work is currently being compromised. Fundamentally, we want students to have freedom to learn sociology, and this is a time when we all as sociologists must work together to advance this shared goal.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Misra".

Joya Misra, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Kidd".

Nancy Weinberg Kidd, Executive Director