

**AERA RESOLUTION  
REGARDING THE REPEAL OF ARIZONA HB2281**

**TO THE ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE  
*ADOPTED FEBRUARY 5, 2012***

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) is the nation's leading scientific and scholarly association whose membership is devoted to advancing knowledge about education and to improving teaching and learning through rigorous research and evaluation. Among its approximately 25,000 members are many who have been at the forefront of efforts to improve the performance of minority students and to understand the implications of ethnic studies and similar coursework for both majority and minority students. Reviewing (a) the 2010 Arizona Revised Statutes Relating to School Curriculum as amended by HB2281 regarding the teaching of ethnic studies courses, (b) the December 27, 2011 ruling of an administrative law judge affirming the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction's ruling that the Mexican American Studies course offered by the Tucson Unified School District No. 1 violated HB2281, (c) the January 6, 2012 order of the Superintendent to withhold 10 percent of the monthly funds of the School District, and (d) accordingly the January 10, 2012 decision of the Governing Board of the Tucson Unified School District No. 1 to suspend courses and teaching activities related to Mexican American Studies, the AERA Council unanimously adopted at its meeting on February 5, 2012 the following resolution directed to the Arizona State Legislature:

**Whereas:**

The American Educational Research Association believes that HB2281 infringes on local school board autonomy and threatens the academic freedom of those who teach in and design courses for local school boards;

**Whereas:**

The American Educational Research Association believes that HB2281 has direct and chilling effects on the First Amendment rights of Arizona's academic administrators, teachers, and students and violates a basic premise of learning that open inquiry supports cognitive growth and educational development; and

**Whereas:**

A substantial body of research has shown that ethnic studies courses advance important state and national interests, including the production of better informed and more skilled students and the reduction of minority and majority out-group stereotyping and bias,

**Therefore, the Council of the American Educational Research Association finds educationally indefensible the passage of HB2281 and urges its immediate repeal by the Arizona State Legislature.**