

## STATEMENT OF CONCERN

The Executive Council of the American Educational Studies Association wants to express publicly our deep concern about recent U.S. executive, legislative, and judicial actions taken at odds with AESA's most deeply held values. In the face of such actions, we want to reaffirm truth, love, and justice as AESA'S guiding values. AESA's scholarly commitments to public education, to democracy and the arts, to cultural diversity and environmental sustainability, educational equality and equity are reflected in our *Standards for Academic and Professional Instruction in Foundations of Education, Educational Studies, and Educational Policy Studies*. Recent political rhetoric and actions have imperiled our conscientious work to uphold them.

Our members' language, inquiries, situations, standpoints, and strategies for interpreting, expressing, and transmitting those deeply shared core values in multiple disciplines are various and dynamic--ever subject to elaboration, critical debate, and mutual deliberation, irreducible to any dogma. Yet the intensity of our present shared concern moves us to make this brief public statement.

We condemn the targeting of any named religious, racial, sexual, differently-abled, or ethnic group for exclusionary, discriminatory, violent, and hateful speech or action as inconsistent with the nation's democratic ideals--harmful to children and profoundly miseducative. We hold dear the United States' historic hospitality to refugees from oppression elsewhere, so eloquently proclaimed on the Statue of Liberty, yet so often abused and selectively applied, and welcome diverse arts and humanities scholars and social-scientific researchers who bring conscientious imagination, critical intelligence, and practical wisdom to the educational challenges that this national hospitality and its merciless contradictions require us to meet. We deplore the privatization and commercialization of public schools and public colleges and universities as profoundly undemocratic. We value education that respects truths and their experienced and observed complexities from diversely situated perspectives; we condemn public deceit and falsehoods as public miseducation. We reject public attitudes of denial and indifference toward the scientifically documented ecological crisis that now afflicts our entire planet, damaging land, air, and water, and harming human children while endangering countless species; such irresponsible attitudes are profoundly miseducative.

All these severe challenges call for educators' courage, creativity, and wisdom. These challenges impart practical urgency to AESA members' rigorous educational inquiry, thought, and criticism. They require our deliberate curricular, pedagogical, program, policy, and community initiatives, in pragmatic ethical responses to these challenges. They demand our strategically vocal, conscientious engagement in public controversies concerning them as well.