

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Rebecca Bruening

Date: 4/26/2017 18:55

Comments:

Please preserve UNC Law School and affiliated centers' ability to perform a service for disadvantaged members of our community who cannot afford adequate legal aid. Let law students practice and learn

Name: ERVIN CARROLL

Date: 4/26/2017 20:23

Comments:

I am opposed to the closing of the Centers & Institutes at UNC-CH & NC Central. These programs provide instructional training and the only available legal support for many communities in this state.

Name: Karen Blanco

Date: 4/27/2017 07:02

Comments:

Please oppose the proposal to remove litigation abilities from NC Public Universities & the UNC Center for Civil Rights. This is wrong. I hope you oppose it so that you will not mar UNC's reputation.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Karen Blanco

Date: 4/27/2017 07:56

Comments:

Please oppose the proposal submitted by Joe Knott that will effectively strip the system-wide ability of NC public law schools to offer legal representation. This is targeted at and most certainly will affect the UNC Center for Civil Rights, an organization that has helped fight for school desegregation, voting rights, and compensation for victims of the state's former forced-sterilization program.

It also forbids centers and institutes from filing "a complaint, motion, lawsuit or other legal claim," in its own name or for others, "against any individual, entity or government." Moreover, they wouldn't be able to "act as legal counsel to any third party," employ people who do, or arrange for someone's representation. As worded, it would apparently forbid the system's law schools, at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. Central University, from setting up or operating centers or institutes to help out with such things as the Innocence Project. The Innocence Project works with law schools around the state to arrange representation for prison inmates who claim they've been framed for crimes they didn't commit.

Please oppose this proposal and uphold the ability of our Universities to defend themselves and represent others.

Best Regards,

Karen Blanco
Class of 2001

Name: Martin Dyckman

Date: 4/27/2017 10:25

Comments:

Public universities provide a vast array of services to the public beyond their campuses. Their research, largely public funding, informs and assists government agencies, private industry, and the general public in ways too numerous to list. I consider it extremely odd--and unacceptable--that the instant proposal is to disadvantage only those who, lacking great wealth, depend on university institutions to help them assert their rights in litigation. Does the University of North Carolina system contemplate denying economics professors the right to advise and counsel the Koch Brothers and their array of affiliates? Does it propose to wall off the North Carolina universities from say, the John Locke Foundation? It treads on quicksand for the leadership to single out university services that aid the poor. I object strenuously.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Catherine Wides

Date: 4/27/2017 14:38

Comments:

Please do not take away this wonderful institutes and litigation centers at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law, including its Center for Civil Rights, and the North Carolina Central University School of Law. The Center for Civil Rights is shining example of engaging students in real life career learning. To say that these clinics are non-academic and do not further learning is to say that students who attend high school trade classes and construct houses as part of the curriculum are not learning activities.

Name: Lee Barbieri

Date: 4/27/2017 19:29

Comments:

I support continuing the involvement of the centers at UNC and NCCU in litigation, especially against NC governments. Citizens deserve the opportunity to stand up to poor decisions by governments. They should not be prevented by a lack of funds to hire competent legal assistance. The centers also provide excellent training for attorneys similar to medical residencies and post doc training for other professionals. These centers repay citizen tax support for the universities by serving some of those citizens.

Name: Martha Copp

Date: 4/28/2017 14:13

Comments:

As an alumna of UNC, I am opposed to the Board's proposal to bar UNC institutions from providing legal representation to North Carolinians. This maneuver runs counter to the spirit and mission of the UNC system--to improve the quality of life (through education) by and for the people of North Carolina.

The Center for Civil Rights at UNC Chapel Hill is an important element of this public-minded spirit. I am proud that this Center is located at UNC and that it trains law students and provides legal assistance to economically disadvantaged North Carolinians. These are citizens who would otherwise be harmed doubly because of the injustice of being unable to access and afford legal representation when they are the injured parties.

Thank you for noting my strenuous objection. I am distressed that the UNC Board of Governors is taking a politicized and anti-humanitarian approach to system governance.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Trude Bennett

Date: 4/28/2017 18:05

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong objections to the proposed policy change regarding UNC centers and institutes and their ability to bring lawsuits on behalf of third parties. This proposal is a transparent and politically motivated attack on the essential work of the Civil Rights Center at UNC CH School of Law in educating lawyers and fulfilling the mission of the University. As emerita faculty in the School of Public Health, I have many years of experience in facilitating service learning for public health, social work, and other students at UNC. Litigation, like advocacy and practice in other fields, is the only way to prepare lawyers-in-training for the rigorous demands of their chosen profession and ensuring their capacity for effective representation of citizens of North Carolina and members of other communities outside the state. If training in the actual defense of civil rights is deemed inappropriate at UNC School of Law, one wonders what the true purpose of the School and the University is meant to be. I fervently hope that the Board of Governors will protect this important function of legal training at UNC-CH.

Name: Katherine Ruiz

Date: 5/1/2017 10:41

Comments:

As a resident of North Carolina, I am very concerned by the February 23rd proposal to prevent law students from participating in litigation. I am concerned in the deterioration of legal rights for NC residents who otherwise could not afford representation, and I am concerned about how this will impact the employability of law students who will be graduating with no hands on experience. I think this proposal is short sighted and will diminish the prestige of the institution and oppose it strongly.

Name: Linda Hartford

Date: 5/1/2017 10:53

Comments:

These clinics are of utmost importance to our American Democracy.

First to the clients whose freedoms are at stake, secondly to the students and instructors learning to help provide those freedoms and thirdly to the rest of us who were blessed to be born into a free country and want to remain living in one.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Anne Gordon

Date: 5/1/2017 11:25

Comments:

My name is Anne Gordon and I am the Director of Externships at Duke Law School. I write to support experiential education at UNC's law schools, and to support the important mission of UNC in providing training for students and services for vulnerable, low-income citizens. The February 23, 2017 proposal to prevent UNC law schools from participating in litigation is a travesty. These programs are important, and highly respected, and it is clear that the only reason they are on the chopping block is partisanship. This interference of politics into the academic and service missions of the UNC system is simply sad. Of course, if talented future lawyers want to choose Duke instead of UNC for their legal training, we're happy to take them, but I predict that UNC will see a loss in academic talent, alumni donations, and school rankings as a result. With respect, Anne Gordon

Name: Nancy Connolly

Date: 5/1/2017 11:48

Comments:

I have lived in North Carolina for many years and worked at the University of North Carolina. When I moved here, the University was famous for progressive outreach. Now partisan elements in the Board of Governors and the state legislature threaten to destroy this. The February 23, 2017 proposal to stop UNC law schools from participating in real-world litigation is detrimental to students' education and job prospects and would deprive poor NC citizens whose civil rights are threatened of affordable legal services. I oppose the proposal and urge you to do the same.

Name: Robert Harrison

Date: 5/1/2017 12:11

Comments:

I object to the proposed policy change, which would bar public university centers and institutes from providing legal representation to clients in any sort of litigation.

Our public universities and institutes have been advocates for justice for the weak and marginalized in our community, and I am very proud of this. It is an affirmation of our country's Judeo-Christian traditions. Withdrawing this support from the vulnerable members of our community would be cruel, lacking in mercy, and against our traditions.

I suggest a reading of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-12).

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Betsy Bullen

Date: 5/1/2017 12:21

Comments:

Oh, for heaven's sake why would you eliminate the law school clinics? They do a lot of good all around: students get experience before they go out on their own. Underprivileged people get free help. It reflects back on the school as providing for everyone. Don't be short-sighted by eliminating them.

Name: Kathryn Lang

Date: 5/1/2017 13:44

Comments:

I am a first year Masters student at UNC-Chapel Hill and I represent a group of 30 like-minded graduate students and staff across multiple disciplines.

We do not support the proposed policy that targets the UNC Center for Civil Rights. We believe these kinds of restrictions are against our UNC values. In fact, our own mission statement for the UNC system reads: "The University of North Carolina is a public, multi-campus university dedicated to the service of North Carolina and its people. It encompasses the 17 diverse constituent institutions and other educational, research, and public service organizations. Each shares in the overall mission of the University. [...] through public service, which contributes to the solution of societal problems and enriches the quality of life in the State. In the fulfillment of this mission, the University shall seek an efficient use of available resources to ensure the highest quality in its service to the citizens of the State."

We believe that this proposed policy is an attack on the Center for doing critical legal work for under-served citizens of this State. They are not even funded by UNC; they get grant money by writing proposals. Nothing about the Center's work is promoting "liberal ideology," unless you think civil rights, equal education access, and uncovering forced sterilization are only "liberal" issues. If so, that says something about the conservatives on the BOG and how they view our civil rights.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Stefano Belloni

Date: 5/1/2017 14:15

Comments:

Racism has plagued UNC since its construction; it was literally built by slaves. Racism is entrenched in our monuments, statues, and buildings. The Center for Civil Rights actively fights against racism in our state, among other civil rights issues faced by marginalized North Carolinians. Banning it and other centers from pursuing litigation will make the BOG complicit in racism in North Carolina. The BOG has already harmed the University enough in recent years, enough is enough.

Name: Susan Morgan

Date: 5/1/2017 17:19

Comments:

The pro bono lawyering by students of the Law Dept at UNC Chapel Hill is an attempt to teach them 'real world' experience. The proposal of Feb 23rd 2017 to prevent law schools from litigating is spiteful. The UNC BoG should SUPPORT this effort to give students an ideal opportunity to expand their skills. Bringing partisan extreme political viewpoints into such cases is petty and spiteful and not worthy of this great state or ours where we created the first state university in the recently liberated United States. Please reconsider your moves.

Name: Ellen Koivisto

Date: 5/1/2017 20:15

Comments:

Civil rights are a good thing. They must be fought for or we forfeit them altogether. Protect the UNC Center for Civil Rights so it can continue to protect our rights.

Name: Steve Bravy

Date: 5/1/2017 21:33

Comments:

The disadvantaged need legal support and cannot afford it. This change is another Republican attempt to render the poor completely powerless. The current practice provides both help to those in need and practice for burgeoning legal types. Just what does this change accomplish, whom does it benefit, and who does it harm?

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Marilyn Knowles

Date: 5/2/2017 07:05

Comments:

I'm a resident of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, a graduate of the UNC School of Public Health and a donor to many UNC programs. Just as I support the many outreach programs in the SPH and the SOM, I write to support the mission of UNC's outstanding law school in providing training for students and services for vulnerable, low-income citizens. I oppose your February 23, 2017, proposal to prevent university centers from participating in litigation. This position is at odds with providing real-world experience for students. UNC-CH's Center for Civil Rights is highly regarded nationally among the many law schools that offer training and provide services in civil rights law, a crucial legal specialty. The UNC Board of Governors should support these important and highly respected programs. A mission of higher education is to excite the enthusiasm and moral commitment of young people for participation in civic activities. As a tax payer, and UNC supporter, this is what I require of my BOG. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Mary Lee

Date: 5/2/2017 07:14

Comments:

I support the UNC Center for Civil Rights, and the advocacy work that they do. Please do not ban them from doing the important work.

Thank you,
Mary Lee

Name: Daniel Sanders

Date: 5/2/2017 07:32

Comments:

The fact that Mr. Long noted that he would allow the Center for Civil Rights to fight for the Second Amendment or the repeal of anti-discrimination laws highlights the ideological aspect to this decision. His suggestion that he would have no problem with the Center if it were to selectively enforce his conservative values is hypocritical.

This strictly political decision has no place in the University of North Carolina System and I am saddened by the prospect of this political fight harming the law school's reputation and accreditation status.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Zoe Ackerman

Date: 5/2/2017 08:05

Comments:

To whom it may concern: As a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill (class of 2014), I am dismayed at the recent attacks on centers like the UNC Center for Civil Rights. Over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the experiential education opportunities provided throughout the UNC system for current and future students. The UNC school of public health, in particular, has achieved its status as the #1 SPH in part through its emphasis on service learning. The mission of the SPH is "to improve public health, promote individual well-being and eliminate health inequities across North Carolina and around the world." This includes generating research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation/legal advocacy is one avenue through which public health research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the SPH to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The critical collaboration with the Center for Civil Rights enables it to fulfill the SPH mission through advancement of public health for marginalized communities who might not otherwise have access to support. As Associate Director of a nonprofit that collaborates with the UNC SPH and learned a great deal from scholar-advocates like Steve Wing, I will not stand for your attacks on the UNC CCR and others. I will reconsider donating to the university if you continue this madness.

Name: Sophie Suberman

Date: 5/2/2017 08:31

Comments:

This organization is good for everyone in North Carolina. Civil rights are human rights. We are all human, including the Board of Governors. They would do well to remember that.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Kaaren Haldeman

Date: 5/2/2017 08:51

Comments:

I fully support the UNC Center for Civil Rights and, as a UNC-CH alum, I am angered at the BOG's attempt to yet again tarnish our global and national reputation as one of the finest institutions of higher learning. The spirit of Carolina attracts people to our university, with admiration for the ways in which we tackle the challenges of 21st century living with compassion, dignity and integrity. That spirit is irreplaceable and is embodied in the work of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. As a student of the South, a NC voter and taxpayer, and a proud Tar Heel, I believe in learning from our history to create a better path forward for all of our people--here in NC and beyond. Dismantling the Center dishonors those who fought and paid dearly for the protection of those rights, and is an infringement on those rights for us all. Your job as a BOG is to protect the Carolina legacy and continue to attract the best and brightest not only to our campuses but to our state. Your actions against the Center are out of line with students current and prospective, their parents, faculty, staff, supporters and alumni. Please take as your charge to honor and protect the University of the people rather than use it for your own ideological agendas. Again, I firmly oppose any action taken to weaken, constrain or remove the UNC Center for Civil Rights.

Name: Michelle Laws

Date: 5/2/2017 11:12

Comments:

I plan to attend and will make my comments at that time. I will provide written copy for BOG and official record.

Name: Katherine Capehart

Date: 5/2/2017 11:28

Comments:

I'm a lifelong resident of North Carolina, a graduate of UNC (class of 2008), and a current employee of UNC Healthcare. I write to support the important mission of UNC's outstanding law schools in providing training for students and services for vulnerable, low-income citizens. I oppose your February 23, 2017 proposal to prevent UNC law schools from participating in litigation. This position is at odds with the NCGA's recent emphasis on jobs and post-graduation employment because it eliminates a very easy way for students to gain real-world experience. UNC's Center for Civil Rights is regarded nationally among the many law schools that offer training and provide services in civil rights law, a crucial legal specialty that will become even more critical in the months and years to come. Partisanship has no place in the academic and service missions of the UNC system. That the UNC BoG is attempting to undermine these programs is a shameful partisan power grab and should not be tolerated.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Catherine McCormick

Date: 5/2/2017 11:54

Comments:

I support the UNC Center for Civil Rights and am vehemently against any actions taken to shut it down.

Name: Allen Spalt

Date: 5/2/2017 12:23

Comments:

This message is to express my strong support of the UNC Center for Civil Rights and its continued ability to enter into lawsuits to further civil rights.

The Center has a long and effective history of training young lawyers and promoting the civil rights of NC citizens least able to protect themselves. These are noble and much needed goals that should be honored by the BOG, not limited.

Thank you for your consideration of these views and for supporting the Center.

Name: Anne Froment

Date: 5/2/2017 12:45

Comments:

I'm a resident of North Carolina, and UNC employee.

I oppose the February 23, 2017 proposal to prevent UNC law schools from participating in litigation. This would decrease the appeal of a UNC law degree by eliminating real-world experience for students. Thank you for your consideration.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Michael Hilton

Date: 5/2/2017 13:47

Comments:

The UNC Center for Civil Rights staff, using no public funds, perform a much needed service to the people North Carolina and the greater American South: the provision of high-quality legal representation for advancement of civil rights and social justice through work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion.

The Center also provides excellent real-world training for UNC law students, which benefits the general public through the provision of trained, competent lawyers. Without the ability to engage in direct advocacy and litigation the students would not get the high-quality training and professional development currently available.

As a member of the legal profession and citizen of North Carolina I strongly encourage the Board of Governors to take no action restricting the Center's ability to engage in direct advocacy and litigation efforts.

Name: Jeff Miles

Date: 5/2/2017 15:26

Comments:

I'm finishing up my first year as a student at the UNC School of Law. Throughout this first year, the Center for Civil Rights provided me with several opportunities to develop skills (like client counseling) that will be key to my success as a practicing attorney. Though the law school offers other ways to practice these skills, none provided the breadth of opportunity that the Center did. This is especially for first-year students since the clinical programs and externships are only available to those in their second or third year.

I had the opportunity to attend higher-ranked law schools out-of-state that would have potentially placed me in better jobs, but the Center and Carolina Law's strong public service mission kept me in North Carolina. I knew that Carolina Law would give me opportunities to reach out to the North Carolina communities I love like no other school would. And I knew that attending Carolina Law would make a better, more well-rounded lawyer.

Please allow the Center for Civil Rights to continue to give students opportunities to succeed and continue to recruit the best and brightest students to North Carolina.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Margaret Foster

Date: 5/2/2017 15:32

Comments:

Dear Board of Governors,

As a Chicago native and UNC Chapel hill graduate, I whole-heartedly ask that you reconsider shutting down the UNC Center for Civil Rights, as it is one of many of UNC's respected and invaluable analytical research organizations/institutes critical to contributing to the future of the state as a whole and one of the many reasons that out-of-state individuals choose to come to UNC. Continuing to eliminate the state's most important legal resources will do nothing for the ultimate social and economic success of North Carolina and I urge you to choose objectivity over partisan politics and allow the Center for Civil Rights, a social good, to stay open. Otherwise, you will continue to lose funding from out-of-state students and alumni.

Name: Natasha Lambert

Date: 5/2/2017 18:09

Comments:

I would urge UNC to continue to support Civil Rights advocacy through the Center for School Leadership Development.

Name: Mellicent Blythe

Date: 5/2/2017 18:12

Comments:

Civil rights are not a partisan issue, nor is high quality legal education. The Civil Rights Center needs to be protected to continue its important work for our most vulnerable citizens.

Name: Susan Read

Date: 5/2/2017 18:32

Comments:

I fully support the UNC Center for Civil Rights and the work they do for the people of N.C. I am a proud North Carolina native, a Christian, and a graduate of UNC-CH.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Mary Marks

Date: 5/2/2017 19:21

Comments:

I am a voter, a resident of North Carolina, and a graduate of 3 colleges where my education was enhanced through the provision of care to medically underserved people. In view of this, I strongly oppose your February 23, 2017 proposal to prevent UNC law schools from providing training for students and services for vulnerable, low-income citizens, including participation in litigation. UNC-CH's Center for Civil Rights is highly regarded nationally among the many law schools that offer training and real-world experience for students in the provision of services in civil rights law, a crucial legal specialty. The UNC Board of Governors should continue to support these important and highly respected programs and refrain from introducing partisanship and politics into the academic and service missions of the UNC system. In other words: It is not broken and does not need fixing!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Marks, FNP, MSN, RN

Name: Robert Finch

Date: 5/2/2017 21:42

Comments:

UNC must continue to fight for justice for the poor.

Name: James Powers

Date: 5/3/2017 05:22

Comments:

In an era which we are reminded of how far we as a society still need to progress on civil rights issues, it is imperative that we support and utilize such resources as the UNC Center for Civil Rights. This is especially pertinent in the context of North Carolina as we have seen the bigotry and racism that persist here today. In our great state, voting rights are being curtailed based on race, civil rights are viciously withheld from our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, and the income inequality among races has reached historic levels. The Center for Civil Rights has accomplished much in its fight over the aforementioned issues and to do away with it would ensure that the most vulnerable of North Carolina would have one less resource for the protection of their civil rights. This is something we simply cannot allow to happen.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Alaina Altamura

Date: 5/3/2017 05:42

Comments:

Today, the civil rights of the most vulnerable North Carolinians are under constant attack. The UNC Center for Civil Rights's work in protecting those citizens is extremely important and to close the Center would guarantee that many will have their basic civil rights go unprotected. We should strive to make North Carolina an example of tolerance and inclusion rather than a state that oppresses and brings shame to it's citizens.

Name: Alaina Altamura

Date: 5/3/2017 05:44

Comments:

Today, the civil rights of the most vulnerable North Carolinians are under constant attack. The UNC Center for Civil Rights' work in protecting those North Carolinians is extremely important and to close the Center would guarantee that many will have their basic civil rights go unprotected. We should strive to make North Carolina an example of tolerance and inclusion rather than a state that oppresses and brings shame to it's citizens.

Name: sue gist

Date: 5/3/2017 06:22

Comments:

I'm a resident of North Carolina, and I write to support the important mission of UNC's outstanding law schools in providing training for students and services for vulnerable, low-income citizens. I oppose your February 23, 2017, proposal to prevent UNC law schools from participating in litigation. This position is at odds with the NCGA's recent emphasis on jobs and post-graduation employment by eliminating real-world experience for students. As one example, UNC-CH's Center for Civil Rights is highly regarded nationally among the many law schools that offer training and provide services in civil rights law, a crucial legal specialty. The UNC Board of Governors should support these important and highly respected programs and refrain from introducing partisanship and politics into the academic and service missions of the UNC system. Thank you for your consideration.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Holly Straut

Date: 5/3/2017 07:43

Comments:

As a public institution, it is UNC's responsibility to be engaged in and supportive of the surrounding community. Access to legal representation is one of the most important services our university can provide to individuals in the community who otherwise have none. Please do not prevent the Center for Civil Rights and other centers and institutions from performing their important work in the community and preparing the next generation of attorneys.

Name: Catherine Mulqueen

Date: 5/3/2017 08:06

Comments:

I strongly oppose the current proposal under consideration that would stop the Center for Civil Rights from litigating against the state and other entities. The Center for Civil Rights has been instrumental in fighting for desegregation, environmental justice, fair housing practices and more. Not only should the BOG drop this attack on the Center for Civil Rights, I believe the Center for Civil Rights should receive state funding for the important work that is done there. This center has improved the quality of life for citizens of North Carolina, and continues to do so.

Name: Alanna Gillis

Date: 5/3/2017 09:03

Comments:

As a graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill and a member of this community, I am appalled that the Board of Governors are considering getting rid of the Center for Civil Rights. As a graduate student, I recognize the crucial importance of getting to practice my occupation before graduating (in my case doing research). The Center for Civil Rights serves this same purpose for law students in training. It gives them a competitive advantage on the labor market to ensure that UNC system students continue to hold important positions. More importantly, it helps UNC recruit law students interested in practicing law to represent the common person, not only law as a means of becoming wealthy. North Carolina as a state needs lawyers dedicated and trained to fight for the average person and this center ensures we recruit these students to UNC to represent our citizens while in school and makes it more likely they will stay in North Carolina to continue this crucial representation once they graduate. If we believe as a state that all people deserve justice, even if they cannot afford to pay a lawyer to represent them, then we must allow the Center for Civil Rights to continue its critical work for the sake of our law students and our fellow North Carolinians.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Patricia Rieser

Date: 5/3/2017 10:31

Comments:

I've lived in NC since 1973 and have enjoyed and respected its political moderation until ~2012. Today, I'm taking the time to write in support of the important mission of UNC's outstanding law schools to provide training for students and services for vulnerable, low-income citizens. I was shocked to read the February 23, 2017 proposal to prevent UNC law schools from participating in litigation. I'm a retired nurse practitioner, this ill-considered move strikes me as analogous to my having been trained without having access to real patients!

This position is at odds with the NCGA's recent emphasis on jobs and post-graduation employment by eliminating real-world experience for students. As only one example, UNC-CH's Center for Civil Rights is highly regarded nationally among the many law schools that offer training and provide services in civil rights law, a legal specialty that remains critical in our country.

The UNC Board of Governors should support these important and highly respected programs and refrain from introducing partisanship and politics into the academic and service missions of the UNC system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Patricia Rieser, RN, FNP (retired)

Name: Brittany Sandefur

Date: 5/3/2017 10:43

Comments:

I support the UNC Center for Civil Rights. It is a vital training component for the future of our justice system and an obligation of the University as a champion for our state's most vulnerable populations.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Heather Hazelwood

Date: 5/3/2017 10:57

Comments:

I'm a licensed attorney and resident of North Carolina. When I was in law school in Wisconsin, I participated in a clinical program that provided family law and restraining order services to low-income citizens. It was invaluable to my legal training and also provided a much-needed service to our community. I am commenting here to strongly support the important mission of UNC's outstanding law schools in providing training for students and services for vulnerable, low-income citizens. This is the second time I am writing in opposition to your February 23, 2017 proposal to prevent UNC law schools from participating in litigation. This position is at odds with the NCGA's recent emphasis on jobs and post-graduation employment by eliminating real-world experience for students. As one example, UNC-CH's Center for Civil Rights is highly regarded nationally among the many law schools that offer training and provide services in civil rights law, a crucial legal specialty. Further, clinical programs are a selling point for potential students. The UNC Board of Governors should support these important and highly respected programs and refrain from introducing partisanship and politics into the academic and service missions of the UNC system. Eliminating them is counter-intuitive, counter-productive, and frankly short-sighted. It's also an insult to the practice of law. I can't imagine a scenario where the same proposal would even be considered for health care fields. Thank you.

Name: Lillie Armstrong

Date: 5/3/2017 12:32

Comments:

Please preserve the Center for Civil Rights at UNC Chapel Hill. As a public health student at UNC, I saw the Center's work as a sign of the university's larger commitment to coordinated, innovative efforts to support the people in our community. When facing the daunting tasks of improving health and well-being in North Carolina and around the world, students valued the Center as a sign that we were not working alone, that the values our training instilled in us were alive and well in other work at UNC. The University has a duty to the people and communities that have shaped its history, worked in its buildings and grounds, and who speak with pride of our school's triumphs. The work of Center for Civil Rights at UNC should not only be saved, but expanded. Thank you.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Belinda Novik

Date: 5/3/2017 19:03

Comments:

We support the UNC Center for Civil Rights and it's mission. They have a long and proud tradition at UNC and have made the flagship university an important part of what makes NC great. Advocating for the poor and giving voice to their concerns is what any decent citizen would do. We are members of the community, alumni, and parents of alumni and are very concerned about the BOG's intimidation of the center and threat to prohibit it's full functioning. The center deserves the BOG's full support. Thank you,
Dr. Belinda Novik and Dr. Barry Katz.

Name: Sophia Bessias

Date: 5/4/2017 10:28

Comments:

The work of the UNC Center for Civil Rights to support equal access to education, housing, and all community resources protects our shared values at the university. As a public health research professional in the school of pharmacy, I voice my support for fellow researchers in the law school and recognize the connection between their work and ours. Education and housing are among the most important determinants of health. Civil rights are not on the negotiating table and must not be subject to censorship by the Board of Governors. I ask the Board to remember our founding principles of lux and libertas rather than engage in obfuscation and censorship.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Kirsten Leloudis

Date: 5/4/2017 10:48

Comments:

As a native North Carolinian and future attorney I am deeply concerned to learn that the UNC Board of Governors is considering taking away the UNC Center for Civil Rights' power to engage in litigation. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a nationally renowned and unique asset to the University and the people of North Carolina, one that makes UNC School of Law stand out and shine brightly in the competitive environment of legal education. The educational opportunities that the Center provides- including internships, postdoctoral fellowships, conferences, and hands-on learning through client counseling- were one of the key reasons that I chose to attend UNC School of Law. In addition to the Center's vital role in education, the Center invests in and empowers North Carolinians by providing legal representation in civil rights cases. Litigation is central to the Center's mission to advocate for the marginalized and ensure that future generations of attorneys are well-equipped to be leaders in their profession. I hope the Board will find that it would be a shame and a mistake to deny future law students and the people of North Carolina the full educational and advocacy power of the UNC Center for Civil Rights.

Name: Taylor McAdams

Date: 5/4/2017 11:22

Comments:

As a North Carolinian, I am concerned to learn that the UNC Board of Governors is considering taking away the UNC Center for Civil Rights' power to engage in litigation. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a nationally renowned program and an important asset to both the University and the people of North Carolina. The educational opportunities that the Center provides- including internships, postdoctoral fellowships, conferences, and hands-on learning through client counseling- make UNC School of Law stand out and shine brightly in the competitive environment of legal education. In addition to the Center's vital role in education, the Center invests in and empowers the people of North Carolina by providing much-needed legal representation in civil rights cases. Litigation is central to the Center's mission to advocate for the marginalized and ensure that future generations of attorneys are well-equipped to be leaders in their profession. I hope the Board will find that it would be a shame and a mistake to deny future law students and the people of North Carolina the full educational and advocacy power of the UNC Center for Civil Rights.

With love,

Taylor M.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Damon Seils

Date: 5/4/2017 11:29

Comments:

I support the UNC Center for Civil Rights. Please allow the center to continue its important work for North Carolinians.

Name: Maria Mayo

Date: 5/4/2017 11:41

Comments:

As a North Carolinian and an alumnus of UNC School of Law, I want to register my concern with the Board of Governors potentially removing litigation power from the UNC Center for Civil Rights, which is a nationally renowned program and an incredibly important asset for both Carolina Law students and the people of our state. The Center provides crucial educational opportunities for Carolina Law students, including internships, postdoctoral fellowships, conferences, and hands-on learning, which helps UNC School of Law stand out in the highly competitive legal education market. In addition to the Center's vital role in legal education, the Center invests in and empowers the people of North Carolina by providing much-needed legal representation in civil rights cases. Litigation is central to the Center's mission to advocate for the marginalized and ensure that future generations of attorneys are well-equipped to be leaders in their profession. I sincerely hope that the Board will find that it is a huge mistake to deny future law students and the people of our state the full educational and advocacy power of the UNC Center for Civil Rights.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Shannon Bailey

Date: 5/4/2017 11:53

Comments:

As a North Carolinian, I am concerned to learn that the UNC Board of Governors is considering taking away the UNC Center for Civil Rights' power to engage in litigation. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a nationally renowned program and an important asset to both the University and the people of North Carolina. The educational opportunities that the Center provides- including internships, postdoctoral fellowships, conferences, and hands-on learning through client counseling- make UNC School of Law stand out and shine brightly in the competitive environment of legal education. In addition to the Center's vital role in education, the Center invests in and empowers the people of North Carolina by providing much-needed legal representation in civil rights cases. Litigation is central to the Center's mission to advocate for the marginalized and ensure that future generations of attorneys are well-equipped to be leaders in their profession. I hope the Board will find that it would be a shame and a mistake to deny future law students and the people of North Carolina of the full educational and advocacy power of the UNC Center for Civil Rights.

Thank you for accepting comments.

Name: Catherine Peebles

Date: 5/4/2017 14:08

Comments:

The clinic allowed me experience in District court and now I work with those attorneys everyday. All I had to do was build on the wealth of knowledge from the clinic

Name: Kristen Oberg

Date: 5/4/2017 14:16

Comments:

Please take into consideration that any policy adopted related to the Involvement of Centers and Institutes in Legal Actions should not impact activities at any of the University System's Law Schools. Practical experience is critically important in positioning students for post-graduation employment. - Kristen Oberg - North Carolina Central School of Law, Class of 2009

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Amanda Houser

Date: 5/4/2017 14:20

Comments:

I wish I could be here to speak in person about how valuable my experience with the NCCU Law Clinics have been to my practice. Law School does not teach us how to be lawyers, the clinics do. These clinics molded us and guided us and have proved over and over again that practice makes perfect. Without these clinics to teach law students how to be not just lawyers but great lawyers the law schools are simply unleashing crop after crop of ill prepared and negligent persons into the profession.

Name: Ihuoma Igboanugo

Date: 5/4/2017 17:57

Comments:

I demand that law schools and all public institutions be exempt from this proposal.

Name: Louise Brunson

Date: 5/4/2017 18:17

Comments:

In addition to providing much needed practical exposure and experience to law students, the Legal Clinics across the state - and most especially at NCCU, provide a desperately needed service to the local community. Thank you for protecting and serving the people of NC with your staunch support of keeping the clinics open and fully funded.

Name: Amanda Kubic

Date: 5/4/2017 20:19

Comments:

The Center for Civil Rights has been a key institution that has defended people experiencing poverty and people of color on issues involving environmental racism, school desegregation, eugenics, and more. The proposal being considered by The Board of Governors' Educational Policy committee to stop the Center for Civil Rights from litigating against the State would deprive individuals who lack the means to find representation elsewhere their right of defending themselves against unjust policy, practice, and legislation. It would be a great disservice to so many individuals if this proposal were to pass. The Center for Civil Rights has achieved so much for marginalized members of the community, and should be allowed to continue to do so.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Katherine Slager

Date: 5/4/2017 21:23

Comments:

Please vote to keep the Center for Civil Rights. It's a necessary part of what we want our state to be: a place that denounces discrimination! Thank you.

Name: Natalie Reitz

Date: 5/4/2017 23:38

Comments:

As a person who cares deeply about creating an equitable and just world, I am concerned to learn that the UNC Board of Governors is considering taking away the UNC Center for Civil Rights' power to engage in litigation. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a nationally renowned program and an important asset to both the University and the people of North Carolina. The educational opportunities that the Center provides- including internships, postdoctoral fellowships, conferences, and hands-on learning through client counseling- make UNC School of Law stand out and shine brightly in the competitive environment of legal education. In addition to the Center's vital role in education, the Center invests in and empowers the people of North Carolina by providing much-needed legal representation in civil rights cases. Litigation is central to the Center's mission to advocate for the marginalized and ensure that future generations of attorneys are well-equipped to be leaders in their profession. I hope the Board will find that it would be a shame and a mistake to deny future law students and the people of North Carolina of the full educational and advocacy power of the UNC Center for Civil Rights.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Lucy Lewis

Date: 5/5/2017 06:50

Comments:

I am deeply concerned that the Board of Governors is considering a proposal that would prevent the UNC Center for Civil Rights from taking on legal clients or helping them find legal representation. This is a betrayal of the mission of the Center and the University itself with its original mission to serve the state of North Carolina and its people. It also would take away the critical opportunity for UNC-CH law students to develop practical experience with civil rights law, as their peers are able to do at highly regarded law schools in the state and the nation.

The Center faculty and students have engaged in exemplary civil rights litigation including a landmark decision to guarantee the constitutional right to a "sound, basic education" for all North Carolina public school students, argued on behalf of citizens who were involuntarily sterilized for decades by the state, opposed harmful environmental practices and supported fair housing.

I attended UNC-CH for the MPA Program and worked at the Campus Y for 12 years until my retirement last December. I urge you to reject this shameful proposal and to uphold the values of the University and the Center for Civil Rights.

Name: John Chavez

Date: 5/5/2017 07:32

Comments:

My comment is in regards to the Center for Civil Rights at UNC. Removing the CCR's litigation power against the state would be a huge injustice to the people of North Carolina. This move would amplify the risks that people of color and marginalized individuals like me continue to face. It would also deny us another resource for seeking equity from our already limited set of resources. The CCR is an invaluable organization that allows me and others like me to have a voice and to have institutional backing at our most vulnerable moments. Thank you.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Tirthna Badhiwala

Date: 5/5/2017 07:34

Comments:

In just a few days, I will be graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill. Throughout my 21 years in North Carolina and 4 years at this wonderful institution, I've seen the ways in which this university works to uphold its mission to "extend knowledge-based services...to the citizens of North Carolina and their institutions to enhance the quality of life for all people in the State." I believe the Center for Civil Rights in particular does work that is vital to this mission, specifically involving litigation against state and other entities. I am sure you are aware that the CCR functions without state funding, and provides educational opportunities for UNC Law students. I am also sure you are familiar with the work the CCR has done for school desegregation, eugenics reparations, and environmental justice. Preventing the CCR from litigating explicitly retracts knowledge-based services that enhance the quality of life for all NC residents. I believe the policy proposed to ban university centers and institutions from pursuing legal action or providing legal counsel goes precisely against UNC-Chapel Hill's mission. As a lifelong resident of North Carolina, I urge you not to pursue this policy change.

Name: Mariana Abou-Rizk

Date: 5/5/2017 07:52

Comments:

Please do not cut funding for the Center for Civil Rights. Please do not keep them from being allowed to sue. North Carolina is a more safe and just place because of this center. If you take away their power to operate, then what you are really doing is disenfranchising the residents of North Carolina and prioritizing unlawful and unfair business practices.

Name: Emmy Johnson

Date: 5/5/2017 07:54

Comments:

The Center for Civil Rights is a critical institution at UNC. The study of and protection of civil rights is arguably what our country was built on, and CCR is part of a complex system of checks and balances. CCR's ability to produce research and litigate against the state helps to protect North Carolinians, and as such, should be protected in return.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Marina Greenfeld

Date: 5/5/2017 07:58

Comments:

As a North Carolinian, I am concerned to learn that the UNC Board of Governors is considering taking away the UNC Center for Civil Rights' power to engage in litigation. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a nationally renowned program and an important asset to both the University and the people of North Carolina. The educational opportunities that the Center provides- including internships, postdoctoral fellowships, conferences, and hands-on learning through client counseling- make UNC School of Law stand out and shine brightly in the competitive environment of legal education. In addition to the Center's vital role in education, the Center invests in and empowers the people of North Carolina by providing much-needed legal representation in civil rights cases. Litigation is central to the Center's mission to advocate for the marginalized and ensure that future generations of attorneys are well-equipped to be leaders in their profession. I hope the Board will find that it would be a shame and a mistake to deny future law students and the people of North Carolina of the full educational and advocacy power of the UNC Center for Civil Rights.

Name: Savannah Peters

Date: 5/5/2017 08:07

Comments:

The Center for Civil Rights engages in critical work, and its presence serves as a landmark for visibility and progress. The Center is vital for a safer and more just North Carolina, specifically in their ability to litigate against state and other entities. Preventing the Center's ability to exist or flourish would be a harmful tragedy that is undeserved and unforgivable. Please stand up for the CCR and all it stands for - show us that you understand its importance.

Name: Lindsay Gorman

Date: 5/5/2017 08:13

Comments:

To curtail or eliminate the UNC Civil Rights Center's ability to conduct legal advocacy would strip UNC law students of a valuable experiential education opportunity. Participation in real-world advocacy work allows students to develop as future lawyers, benefiting both students and the state of North Carolina. Public law schools across the country sponsor similar centers, projects, law clinics and other initiatives. If the UNC Civil Rights Center were to see its mission threatened by this proposal, the UNC School of Law would stand out in a negative light unfitting of one of the nation's top public universities.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Maria DeGuzman

Date: 5/5/2017 09:37

Comments:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and its board of governors should do everything possible to *preserve* the mission of the UNC Center for Civil Rights instead of gutting that mission. Central to its mission is the ability to help disenfranchised people overcome barriers of racial and socio-economic inequality. The UNC Center for Civil Rights does this by being able to represent clients from mostly poor minority communities in cases involving civil rights claims. Its mission is an essential part of the democratic process at a university that is supposed to be serving all the people of the state, not just those who are privileged or who can find adequate legal representation in some other way.

Name: Lana Jordan

Date: 5/5/2017 10:17

Comments:

Please preserve the Center for Civil Rights. It is a vital part of UNC.

Name: Nikolai Mather

Date: 5/5/2017 10:33

Comments:

There is no benefit in closing down the Center: law students will lose an invaluable learning resource, UNC employees and their peers will lose their jobs, and the thousands of vulnerable North Carolinians will lose perhaps their only chance to obtain justice in the court. Removing access to the Constitutional right of legal representation, especially when the targeted group experiences some of the worst abridgments of civil rights, is despicable and anti-American. This proposal cannot be passed.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Kate Townsend

Date: 5/5/2017 11:16

Comments:

How thinly veiled can your attacks be? How can it be counterproductive to learning to have law students practicing the law? How is that a push towards mediocrity? Through that same logic, why don't we have medical students barred from practicing medicine in the name of academic excellence?

It is obvious that this Board's attacks on the Center for Civil Rights (and just as notably the School of Law at NC Central University, an HBCU) have little to do with bettering law students' learning experience but rather withholding resources from North Carolina's most vulnerable populations and hindering our next generation of civil and human rights attorneys. This absurdity and foolishness is EXACTLY why we need the Center for Civil Rights.

- Kate Townsend, UNC c/o 2017

Name: Elizabeth Gold

Date: 5/5/2017 11:19

Comments:

Good afternoon. I write to strongly urge the committee to consider voting against the proposed policy change that would prohibit Centers and Institutes from providing direct litigation against private parties and governments. I am an alumna of NCCU School of Law and currently practice law in Raleigh. I participated in two clinical programs as a law student. These clinics and institutes provide a free, tangible service to the members of the community, as well as hands-on, real-world experience to the law students. If this proposal passes, it could greatly jeopardize the success of these programs. NCCU Law is nationally recognized for its top-notch clinical programs - the law school is routinely ranked in the top 10 clinical program providers in the nation, due to the value the clinics and institutes provide to the students and the community at large. It would be a travesty for these programs to be encumbered in any way. Alumni have a vested interest in seeing our law school continue to succeed, and the people of North Carolina do as well. Please consider voting against this proposal. Sincerely, Elizabeth Gold

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Chris Brook

Date: 5/5/2017 11:33

Comments:

My name is Chris Brook and I am a 2002 graduate of the UNC-CH with degrees in Political Science and History and a 2005 graduate of the UNC-CH Law. During my third year of law school, I had the invaluable experience of interning at the Center for Civil Rights. I write to urge the Board of Governors to support the Center's mission and continued operation.

The Center played a pivotal role in helping me become the attorney I am today. In my time there, I worked primarily with African American communities in Moore County seeking access to water and sewer services. Though these communities were within two miles of Pinehurst No. 2 golf course, they still lacked water and sewer service in 2005. My work in Moore County sharpened my client interviewing as well as my legal advocacy skills. It also broadened my horizons by allowing me to work with the good people of Jackson Hamlet and Midway, who had all too often seen Moore County's prosperity pass them by and who I never would have met in a classroom.

At bottom, the Center advocates to make our university's mission a reality. By training our next generation of attorneys it underlines the law as a tool for bringing light and liberty to our state, light and liberty too often inaccessible to our fellow North Carolinians. I trust the Board of Governors will continue to support the Center's essential mission, helping to turn our rhetoric into practice.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Julie Halatek

Date: 5/5/2017 11:48

Comments:

The legal clinics at the North Carolina Central University School of Law play an integral role in the education of the graduates of the law school. Participation in these clinics was incredibly helpful to me in learning how to apply my knowledge to real-world experiences and prepared me as a legal professional. Ensuring graduates of law school are adequately prepared for their new careers is a compelling interest, and I would think both the state and the UNC System would want to provide any available resources to prepare students in keeping with its Mission Statement. Prohibiting them from engaging in litigation eliminates these clinics.

But in addition to being an incredibly valuable resource to potential graduates, these clinics are improving the lives of local residents, particularly those residents who have too many resources to qualify for representation from Legal Aid, but too few resources to be able to afford private lawyers.

The UNC System Mission Statement says its mission "...is to discover, create, transmit, and apply knowledge to address the needs of individuals and society. This mission is accomplished through instruction, which communicates the knowledge and values and imparts the skills necessary...through public service, which contributes to the solution of societal problems and enriches the quality of life in the State." The legal clinics at the NCCU School of Law encompass both the instructional aspect and the public service aspect of the UNC System.

Name: Dan Kelley

Date: 5/5/2017 11:55

Comments:

I am a 2010 graduate of the School of Law. I write to express my full support for the Center for Civil Rights, and its director. The transparently political attacks on both are disgraceful and are beneath the dignity of the institution. Alumni and donors around the county are watching this process very closely. Please do the right thing.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Adam Sieff

Date: 5/5/2017 12:23

Comments:

To whom it concerns:

My name is Adam Sieff and I am an attorney in private practice at Latham & Watkins. These remarks are my own. I have first-hand experience working closely with the Center for Civil Rights as co-counsel in a matter concerning the system of public education in Halifax County. You are, I'm sure, fully aware of the excellent work CCR does obtaining relief for North Carolinians, like our clients in the Halifax matter, who could not ordinarily afford the top-notch representation it provides. In my mind, that public service is reason by itself to allow CCR to continue its operations unencumbered by partisan politics.

But I want to focus on another aspect of CCR's work that you may not hear as much about. CCR is in many respects a teaching clinic, and in that capacity, it is one of the crown jewels of the UNC School of Law. As a hiring attorney, I can tell you that I am far more likely to hire a UNC Law graduate, especially one who has interned or volunteered at CCR, now that I have had the opportunity to work with UNC Law students through CCR. I am sure many other hiring attorneys would agree. The training available through CCR is rare among law schools, especially in the southeast, but would not be if CCR's role were to be diminished in the way some are seeking.

In its current form, CCR is an asset to the People of North Carolina and the students of its University. I worry the proposed changes would end that.

Respectfully,
Adam Sieff

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Adrienne Meddock

Date: 5/5/2017 12:44

Comments:

A practical legal education is critical to competent professional education. Since the MacCrate Report in the 1990s, the American Bar Association has increasingly stressed clinical education as part of essential student preparation for practice. Imagine medical training without rounds...that law school without clinics. This proposal is overbroad and potentially guts the essential training tool for students: the live client experience. The USPTO has expanded clinical participation to the growing areas of patent and trademark practice. Low and no cost representation to low wealth clients was their impetus for the program. This program was codified by a bipartisan Congress. This proposal would harm students, the public, and the competitiveness of NC law schools. Likewise, pro bono representation of clients is part of the attorney's professional responsibility to the public. Clinics teach that duty by example.

I remind you of John Adams' representation of one of the British gunmen in the Boston Massacre. Lawyers must be present to zealously represent all sides as our sacred oath. Please reject the proposal.

See:

[http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/misc/legal_education/2013_legal_education_and_professional_development_maccrate_report\).authcheckdam.pdf](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/misc/legal_education/2013_legal_education_and_professional_development_maccrate_report).authcheckdam.pdf)

Name: Deanna Coleman

Date: 5/5/2017 13:02

Comments:

As a graduate of NCCU School of Law and as current Director of the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic ("LITC"), I am submitting this comment against the proposed policy on involvement of Centers and Institutes in legal actions. At NCCU, our clinics train students to perform as future attorneys. For some students, it is the only practical learning experience that they receive during law school, as summer jobs and internships continue to be extremely competitive. It would be to the great detriment of the UNC system and the constituents impacted if the state and local government limited the abilities of clinics to operate. The LITC is funded by a partial federal grant and is not only allowed but is required to file suit against the federal government. LITCs are valued for the education they provide as well as the services offered to individuals who could not otherwise afford them.

I respectfully request that the Board of Governors not adopt the proposed policy.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Hannah Autry

Date: 5/5/2017 13:41

Comments:

I am a licensed attorney in North Carolina practicing criminal and capital defense. I attended North Carolina Central University School of Law and graduated summa cum laude in May 2013. During law school, I participated in my law school's criminal defense clinic. This clinical experience was instrumental in my learning the practical skills of attorney work - something that is not taught in the normal coursework. With this clinical experience, I was able to obtain a position at a public defender's office right out of law school where I worked for more than three years until I took a position with a nonprofit conducting capital defense litigation.

This legislation would be a disservice to our state's citizens and future attorneys. These practical skills are instrumental in teaching law students the practice of law. These clinics also benefit low-income, underserved clients who usually have no place else to go.

My clinic was very structured and supervised. I feel very thankful to have had this experience, and taking it away would severely undermine the attractability of our state's law programs in competition with others.

Name: Thomas Mosley

Date: 5/5/2017 13:50

Comments:

My daughter just graduated and is now a member of the Georgia Bar. I too am a lawyer, graduating from Howard law...Clinics are vital to the legal spirit for which HBUC's were founded..Our family was so happy to attend graduation and witness the commitment to service as our daughter and her classmates talked about their intent to solve problems through the legal profession

Keep whatever clinic's you have in tact Our Nation needs lawyers dedicated to public service

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Anna Richards

Date: 5/5/2017 14:57

Comments:

The UNC Center for Civil Rights had been committed to the advancement of civil rights in the American South through its work in education, environmental Justice and housing since it's inception. Since its founding the center has provided students an opportunity to practice law through involvement in research, drafting briefs, filing complaints and professional development outside the classroom. In line with the university's mission the center teaches, conducts research and provides service to the state by educating and training law students to ensure future attorneys are equipped to ensure fair and equal opportunities for Undersourced individuals and communities This work is vital and must continue

Name: Rebecca High

Date: 5/5/2017 15:01

Comments:

The UNC Center for Civil Rights fosters life-changing connections among law students, attorneys, and the communities they serve, but it is also demonstrates the university's and the state's commitment to educating hundreds of future attorneys, policy advocates, and legislators in ways that simply cannot be replicated in a classroom.

The Center was founded by Julius L. Chambers, easily one of the most brilliant and dedicated citizens ever to be educated in North Carolina's great system of public universities. His was an intellect that he used in all the best ways and with a combination of humility, dedication, and gravitas that is unmatched in my experience. The struggles the Center joins reflect that wisdom and commitment to service: achieving educational equity; protecting the hard-won assets of our citizens; blocking attempts to site waste and toxins in communities that lack champions among local decision-makers, where the poisons will be "out of sight and out of mind" for the majority.

These are the fights that keep us from making short-sighted decisions with painful long-term consequences. The Center's work thus allows students, their mentors, and community members to work together in the greatest struggle and promise of our nation: the collective construction of a true democracy. If that is not the highest goal of our public universities, it should be.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Lyle Burnham

Date: 5/5/2017 18:33

Comments:

The clinic programs at NCCU School of Law are a crucial part of our legal eagle's education. I myself participated in the Criminal Prosecution Clinic and it was an invaluable experience. Not only did I learn a lot, I gained priceless experience, which I strongly believe helped me gain employment as an Assistant District Attorney after graduation. To put it plainly, to prevent these clinics from continuing is the WRONG decision. These clinical programs are one of the biggest draws that we have to our law school. It would be a huge disservice to the legal community of North Carolina to make them disappear.

Name: Shaquansia Gay

Date: 5/6/2017 07:33

Comments:

This proposed policy change is not one that is all inclusive. I'm not sure who it benefits, but I know plenty of students, victims, and employees that will be negatively impact from the loss of the legal clinics at NCCU SOL. The clinics provide much needed hands-on experience to students and quality, affordable legal assistance to those who may not be able afford regular litigation expenses. Keep the clinics!

Name: Thomasina Williams

Date: 5/6/2017 19:30

Comments:

It is a privilege to comment to the Board of Governors on behalf of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. My husband and I have worked until we were able to purchase land and homes/apartments to lease--supporting six (6) individuals in our household. After our children became adults, we began to see the needs of others to the extent of looking outside of the box. We needed help!! The UNC Center for Civil Rights has become 'angels to mend broken hearts', to wipe some tears away, and shine sunlight into our lives. Thereby permitting me to express my mended heart: "If by a "Liberal" mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares, about the welfare of the people--their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights and their civil liberties--someone who believes we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad, if that is what they mean by a "Liberal", then I'm proud to say I'm a "Liberal"." John F. Kennedy
Thank you, UNC Office of Civil Rights, thank you!!

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Robert Dowling

Date: 5/7/2017 05:37

Comments:

I am writing to ask you to reject the proposal that the UNC Center for Civil Rights be prohibited from representing clients and filing legal actions against the State.

As we all know, racism and discrimination against people of color continues in our society. It has been more than 50 years since President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. How long will it take us to become a truly color-blind society, where all people are provided equal access to good education, job opportunities and housing?

As compassionate and reasonable human beings, we should all be appalled at the snail's pace with which we have made progress on civil rights. As citizens of the great state of North Carolina, we should applaud the work of the UNC Center on Civil Rights. The Center is pursuing the work of the great civil rights attorney, Julius Chambers, who was despised by much of the white power structure in the 1960's and 70's. Then, as now, some believe that Race relations are just fine. They are not.

We need the Center for Civil Rights to do this important work, which includes teaching, research and service to the State. By pursuing litigation, in cases of discrimination, the Center is helping the State become a better place.

Before making any changes to the Center, all members of the Board of Governors should read the new biography of Julius Chambers written by Rosen and Mosnier. It is enlightening.

Thank you for your consideration of this perspective.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Caitlin Fenhagen

Date: 5/7/2017 09:50

Comments:

As a graduate of UNC and UNC Law School, I strongly support the UNC Center for Civil Rights's mission and its teaching. As a participant in UNC Law's criminal clinic program, I know first-hand that working on actual cases and litigation under the supervision of experienced practitioners is the best possible way to learn. I have known many current lawyers who have benefitted from their valuable experience at the UNC Center.

In addition, the critical advocacy and civil rights work of the Center must continue. The Center's landmark work on behalf of disadvantaged individuals and communities in North Carolina has been lauded across the state and country. I am proud of the work they do and the fact that it is occurring at UNC. The state of North Carolina needs this vital social justice work to continue. To restrict the Center's advocacy and teaching through direct representation would be a devastating blow to the University and the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Paul Walden

Date: 5/7/2017 10:19

Comments:

Dear Governors,

Unfortunately when president Lincoln structured the Emancipation Proclamation document, it omitted a clause providing any reciprocity. Former slaves were left with equity equal only to their slave masters sir name. In my opinion, an objective person could make the argument that the advocacy now provided by the UNC Center for Civil Rights in communities like Halifax a century and a half later -- simply help to reduce the negative impact on blacks caused by two hundred and fifty years of slavery plus Mr. Lincoln omission -- 'No clause providing forty acres and a mule'.

Demographic statistics today here in Halifax and neighboring counties resemble reconstruction era numbers some one hundred and fifty years ago. Today's numbers are even south of numbers which existed prior to LBJ civil and voting rights acts passed in the mid 1960's.

In Halifax county, over forty percent of our children live in poverty and roughly seventy-five percent of our K-12's qualify for free or reduced meals. Can certain members of this board based on our current demographics objectively determine that there is no longer a need for this priceless advocacy?

In recent years, the UNC Center for Civil Rights helped Halifax citizens by wining a case for locals overturning an unannounced annexation associated with the Roanoke Rapids theater which increased citizens property taxes. Please Governors -- Do the right thing -- we still need this precious advocacy .

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Anita Simha

Date: 5/7/2017 11:08

Comments:

I write to express my concern for the proposal to limit UNC centers and institutes from suing state entities. The center has also provided immeasurable opportunity to law students to get real experiential law education, which is part of what makes UNC the premier public university in the nation. Limiting this academic freedom seems detrimental to the university's mission and to new student recruitment. If educating students is the primary motive of the university, we ought to not limit the opportunities students have to learn. Increasingly in STEM fields of study, university officials promote hands-on research as one of the best ways to learn. Allowing law students exposure to hands-on legal proceedings through centers like the UNC Center for Civil Rights seems like the perfect analog to lab research for a STEM field. Limiting hands-on opportunities in the field of law while promoting it in a field like biology would be inconsistent and hypocritical.

Name: Andrew Foster

Date: 5/7/2017 12:54

Comments:

I strongly urge the Board of Governors to reject the proposal to restrict the work of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. The Center's work is fully consistent with the Law School and the University's teaching, research and service missions. The Center regularly and consistently engages law students in its work; thus, helping them develop critical lawyering skills. The Center publishes applied scholarship of the highest level, and which materially advances the field of civil rights law, as well as our understanding of the state. The Center works in partnership with underserved communities across the state, extending the University's resources across North Carolina and helping to insure that it fulfills its mission to serve all citizens. While the Center's litigation, advising and other lawyering work may be perceived as controversial, it is, in fact, very typical of clinical and other similar experiential education programming at law schools across the country. The principle of academic freedom is a bedrock value on which U.S. higher education is built. Respect for this principle, as well as a recognition of the high quality education, research and service provided by the Center for Civil Rights, demands that the proposal to restrict or otherwise regulate the Center's work be rejected. Andrew Foster, Clinical Professor of Law and Director of Clinics and Experiential Education, Duke Law School (UNC Law '00) [Institutional affiliation provided for identification only]

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Vanessa

Date: 5/7/2017 15:25

Comments:

As a rising law student, the center for Civil Rights has stood as a place in which students and faculty can actively help those in the community who have been marginalized and excluded for far too long. As a minority student, I know how important maintaining this center is for so many people and how much I want to be apart of maintaining a center that's entire focus is equality. As the United States is built upon the fundamental idea that all people should be equally protected under the law, then advocates and attorneys should be able to do so and the center for Civil Rights is crucial in maintaining this. The removal of this center will only jeopardize the protection of so many people in our community from having their equality fully ensured. It is so important that we allow the existence of this center in order to continue pushing for housing, education and community development that is fair and just for all those residing in this space. I hope that as a rising law student in the fall my ability to extern and volunteer in the center for Civil Rights is able to be possible, as I know so many individuals want to address legal and social issues that affect racial and ethnic minorities. The value and importance at this center is beyond measurable, but without it many people lose the ability to have a space that is dedicated to assisting and finding justice for those who are often silenced. No one should shut down the center for Civil Rights; equality must be protected for all.

Name: Jane Wettach

Date: 5/7/2017 16:39

Comments:

With my undergraduate and law degrees from UNC-CH, I am appalled and highly distressed at the idea of the BOG closing down the UNC Civil Rights Center. Such a move would create an ugly stain on the University and historically be in the same category as the shameful speaker ban. The legal profession needs graduates who are prepared to represent vulnerable and disadvantaged clients whose civil rights have been jeopardized. The law school should absolutely be engaged in teaching law students the skills they need to do so. The Civil Rights Center's activities are totally in line with both the service and teaching missions of the University. The only purpose of shutting it down is to silence the voices -- in just one more way -- of those without power and to save the powerful from having their economic and social control challenged. Statements to the contrary are transparently disingenuous.

A vote to shut down the Civil Rights Center is a shameful act.

Comments Received through the Website

Name:

Date: 5/8/2017 04:44

Comments:

Given the ideological imbalance that presently exists in the state legislature and the Board of Governors, the UNC Center for Civil Rights provides a sorely needed counter balance that gives voice to those groups and individuals that go unheard due to the outsized influence of powerful corporate and religious interests. The Center's work is indispensable to a vibrant democracy. Please support the Center's critical mission. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Sharon Wojno

Date: 5/8/2017 05:07

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. We are dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and we express our opposition to this motion.

Name: Janice Banks

Date: 5/8/2017 05:58

Comments:

When in doubt, take action for what most preserves, assists, maintains, helps in any way, Earth and all life on it.

Name: Martha Spencer

Date: 5/8/2017 06:05

Comments:

Please keep the UNC Center for Civil Rights. Its work is invaluable!

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Karen Reynolds

Date: 5/8/2017 06:12

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. We are dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and we express our opposition to this motion.

Name: Susanne Hesse & Doug Dyer

Date: 5/8/2017 06:21

Comments:

We support civil rights in North Carolina and the UNC Center for Civil Rights

Name: hunter levinsohn

Date: 5/8/2017 06:21

Comments:

I support the UNC Center for Civil Rights and its work to insure civil rights for the people of NC. I also wish to honor North Carolina's long record in upholding civil rights. to close the center would dishonor the memories of many who fought to gain and maintain the rights of all the people in NC. I might mention the late Dean Smith among those notables.

Sincerely,

(Ms) Hunter Levinsohn

Comments Received through the Website

Name: doug krause

Date: 5/8/2017 06:39

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. We are dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and we express our opposition to this motion.

Name: Margaret Silvers

Date: 5/8/2017 06:40

Comments:

I support allowing the Center for Civil Justice to continue legal advocacy for civil rights. This work is essential for social progress and the well-being and rights of our state's citizens. It should not be shut down.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Clare Rpsenfield

Date: 5/8/2017 06:44

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. Over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention.

BOG's proposal is an obvious attempt to discriminate against anyone struggling for fairness and justice, in particular, the black community. It is time for elected officials to stand up for what is morally right, not for their private prejudices, racist views, and pettiness. Otherwise, they do not belong in positions of power.

Name: linda paleias

Date: 5/8/2017 07:23

Comments:

We are against the proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. We are dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. We support the Center and civil rights in NC. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Jenna Robinson

Date: 5/8/2017 07:38

Comments:

The Center for Civil Rights, as constituted now, should be cause for concern for UNC system leaders and state policymakers. As a state-affiliated entity it essentially "earns its keep" by suing other state-affiliated entities. Its "impact litigation" clearly pushes a partisan agenda, all while exploiting the resources and prestige of UNC-Chapel Hill and causing North Carolina taxpayers to incur significant legal fees.

The purpose of UNC-Chapel Hill's follow-up review was to address those problematic activities. But university officials opted instead to paint them in a rosy light. Based on the public record and its own statements, the Center is an activist, partisan organization, and therefore one that operates in violation of system rules and academic standards. Contrary to progressive critics' claims, closing down such a center would not be an "ideological attack," but rather an affirmation that, in public university settings, objectivity should predominate.

Name: Lisa Stone

Date: 5/8/2017 08:09

Comments:

UNC's Center for Civil Rights is famous for its work for the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South. Its work since 2001 in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion has helped promote greater justice for Americans.

Now the UNC Board of Governors is considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. This appears to be due to ideological opposition from some members of the Board of Governors.

This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina.

I join all those urging UNC to preserve the Center's ability to help individuals, families and communities in need of equal justice.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Brian Crews

Date: 5/8/2017 08:31

Comments:

As an NCCU law student in the evening program who worked a full-time job and supported a family, the opportunity to get real-world legal experience via a legal clinic was the singular most important thing responsible for me getting a job and launching my legal career. Due to my schedule, traditional internships were not possible. The current restrictions opposed by the Board of Governors seems much more like a petty, short-sighted political vendetta than anything that would benefit law students in North Carolina. I've seen no justification that makes sense for the proposed rule and the long-term damage and unintended consequences to law students and North Carolina's law schools seems too big a price to pay for such a poorly thought out rule. For the sake of law students in this state who find themselves in positions similar to mine, where clinics are the only opportunity to gain real legal experience, I urge you to reject the rules that will so negatively impact law clinics and centers.

Brian J. Crews, NCCU Law, Class of 2013.

Name: Lawrence Turk

Date: 5/8/2017 08:38

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. I am dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and I am opposed to this motion.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: James Strick

Date: 5/8/2017 08:44

Comments:

I have read that the UNC Board of Governors is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice.

I strongly oppose this proposal. It would be a profound mistake, ending a legacy of extremely important civil rights advocacy at a time when it is needed more than ever, particularly given the weak, or even outright hostile civil rights positions taken by Atty, Gen. Sessions. In this climate organizations like the UNC Center for Civil Rights are very badly needed.

I urge the Board of Governors in the strongest possible terms to reject this proposal.

James Strick, Professor and Chair
Program in Science, Technology and Society
Franklin and Marshall College
Lancaster, PA 17604-3003

Name: Bill Holt

Date: 5/8/2017 09:48

Comments:

Don't handcuff The Center for Civil Rights. The work they do across the south is extremely important.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Andrea DesMarais

Date: 5/8/2017 09:56

Comments:

I ask the board to oppose the proposed policy, "Involvement of Centers and Institutes in Legal Action."

The mission of the UNC School of Public Health is "to improve public health, promote individual well-being and eliminate health inequities across North Carolina and around the world." This includes generating research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation/legal advocacy is one avenue through which public health research is translated into action. One of the centers affected, The Center for Civil Rights, has utilized research conducted by the SPH to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The critical collaboration with the Center for Civil Rights enables us to fulfill our SPH mission through advancement of public health for marginalized communities who might not otherwise have access to support.

I urge the board to protect the integrity and public service of the university by not passing this policy.

Name: John Bromer

Date: 5/8/2017 09:57

Comments:

Do not attempt to hogtie the UNC Center for Civil Rights. It is fighting for all residents of North Carolina and should be honored for its work. The days of repression of rights are coming to an end. Get on the right side of this issue-

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Nancy Friedman

Date: 5/8/2017 10:02

Comments:

My understanding is that the Board of Governors is considering limiting UNC law schools' participation in civil rights initiatives including litigation. Obviously, this move is motivated by political considerations.

Considering the current climate, training of professionals and activities which support those whose civil rights are in jeopardy have never been more important. This is the mission of the Center of Civil Rights at UNC. Its activities are nationally acclaimed and the center should have more support from the Board of Governors, not less.

Nancy E. Friedman MD

Duke University Medical Center

Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics

Pediatric Endocrinology

Name: Louise Chegwiddden

Date: 5/8/2017 10:12

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. We are dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina.

At this time, the work of the Center for Civil Rights is more important than ever. I urge the BOG of UNC schools to support the center.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Roxanne Friedenfels

Date: 5/8/2017 10:26

Comments:

The UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of fair housing, education, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. We are dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and we express our opposition to this motion.

Name: Elizabeth Schwartz

Date: 5/8/2017 10:47

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. I am dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Tracy Feldman

Date: 5/8/2017 10:54

Comments:

I am an educator living in Durham, NC. Please stand against legislation limiting organizations like the UNC center for civil rights from advocating for individuals or communities--their work (as with many other centers and organizations in the UNC system) is very important, and requires that they can represent individuals or communities to help them. Universities should be involved in such work--it is part of being engaged leaders in the communities served by the university. Please vote against the BOG proposal to limit these organizations from conducting research that informs policy. It is a dangerous precedent to set.

Name: Kristen Clarke

Date: 5/8/2017 12:42

Comments:

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law has had the privilege of working with the UNC Center for Civil Rights for many years. The staff and students of the Center have been invaluable partners in advancing the cause of civil rights in North Carolina, and we are dismayed to hear that the Center's important work is once again under threat. The Center's litigation, as well as its non-partisan advocacy work across the state, has been essential in safeguarding the civil rights of some of North Carolina's most vulnerable populations. The Center's work has showcased, on a national stage, UNC's mission of enhancing the quality of life for all North Carolinians. It has also provided hundreds of law students with the hands-on problem solving experience that is so critical to a comprehensive legal education. The proposal under consideration by the Board of Governors would effectively shut down the Center. We oppose the proposal, and hope that you will strongly consider the Center's value to the UNC System and the citizens of North Carolina. The UNC Center for Civil Rights truly exemplifies the stated commitment of your flagship university to improve society and to help to solve the world's greatest problems.

Sincerely,

Kristen Clarke

President & Executive Director

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Ben Ruwe

Date: 5/8/2017 12:51

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. We are dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and we express our opposition to this motion.

Name: Erma Lewis

Date: 5/8/2017 13:02

Comments:

Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and we express our opposition to this motion.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Molly Hauck

Date: 5/8/2017 13:10

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice.

As a member of the Rachel Carson Council I am dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina.

The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and I express my opposition to this motion.

Name: Richard Booth

Date: 5/8/2017 13:34

Comments:

Please do not curtail or restrict the valuable work of the Human Rights Center!

Name: e p

Date: 5/8/2017 14:25

Comments:

These programs for the public good must continue to be funded in full. Giving voice to the those that must not be ignored, all of us make up this country and all of us deserve dignity.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Carol Patterson

Date: 5/8/2017 14:44

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. We are dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and we express our opposition to this motion.

Name: J. Beverly

Date: 5/8/2017 15:17

Comments:

I oppose the proposal that the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice.

The UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion.

This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention.

Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action.

The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Robert Haslag

Date: 5/8/2017 15:23

Comments:

The very idea that North Carolina with its convoluted history on race would attempt to restrict the mission and ability of the University on this topic is indisputably abhorrent. Between the Civil War and Jim Crow, to fail to recognize the absolute need of the school to be free to address this issue as it feels the most good can be done seems to be no more than an attempt to pull the rug over that history and to ensure that history fades into oblivion. I don't know specifically who is leading this effort but clearly that effort is a disservice to the State of North Carolina and spectacularly to the University of North Carolina. This effort is morally wrong and a violation of the primary principle of any University to educate and the failure to do so is no more than a violation of that mission.

Name: Carolyn Fulford

Date: 5/8/2017 15:50

Comments:

I fully support the important work done at legal centers and institutes hosted by our state institutions. When the General Administration and Board of Governors emphasize workplace readiness as a goal for graduates, they must not eliminate the very centers and institutes that provide students with relevant experiences in complex, real legal work. Furthermore, town and gown are brought together when centers and institutes serve the public interest. These actions should be supported by public funding even if and when those institutes work on cases against state agencies. Every part of the state needs to be held accountable to the law, and these centers serve vital needs. The practice of law is messy. Law students need the experience. Our communities need the legal support provided through university centers and institutes.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Abbie Largess

Date: 5/8/2017 18:10

Comments:

The Center for Civil Rights has proved vitally important to furthering progress towards equality in North Carolina, and will continue to do so unless the Board of Governors shuts it down. Closing the Center for Civil Rights would be the ultimate signal that equal rights for all people of North Carolina is not a priority of this university system, and therefore those who appoint the BOG (the state legislature). We should be moving forward, not backwards.

Please do not dismantle the legacy of people like Julius Chambers, a man who dedicated his life to fighting and protecting the rights of those marginalized. He is a true civil rights icon who deserves more recognition - not the destroying of his legacy.

Quite frankly, even the thought of getting rid of this center should be shameful. This is a political move, not a practical one. It is a signal that our university is not truly a public institution that supports all students. If the Board of Governors truly supports black and brown students on this campus, they would allocate more money to the Center for Civil Rights, not get rid of it.

Please do not shut down the Center for Civil Rights.

Name: Rachel Tyeryar

Date: 5/8/2017 18:16

Comments:

The Center for Civil Rights should be free to continue operating as it has been. It does vital work in advancing civil rights and social justice in this state and in the south as a whole. Partisan politics should not silence this center or hinder its ability to promote justice.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Valeri DeCastris

Date: 5/8/2017 18:21

Comments:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. Led by members ideologically opposed to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice. We are dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal. This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of UNC to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina. The BOG will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting, and we express our opposition to this motion

Name: David Guthrie

Date: 5/8/2017 18:36

Comments:

It is imperative that we maintain any institution that seeks to advocate for the least among us, for the greater good of the people as a whole. As such, it seems to me that we must seek to preserve this institution, especially given the current state of affairs that has left so many uncertain and fearful for their well-being.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Brian Fields

Date: 5/8/2017 18:37

Comments:

My name is Brian Fields, and I am the Undergraduate Director of State and External affairs for Student Government at the UNC Chapel Hill. As such, I work to address issues I believe impact both our immediate UNC community and the wider community we were created to serve. The Center for Civil Rights is one of those issues. I would like to offer my unequivocal support for the Center for Civil Rights. The Center serves to educate future attorneys, research and advocate for issues that impact North Carolinians, and help improve the lives of marginalized people across the state. It is unacceptable to engage in an assault on such a center. What kind of message does this send when the Board brings forth proposals such as these. Is the Board opposed to minority advocacy work? Is the Board willing to disregard the over 600 law students who worked at the clinic who say it was the most important learning experience of their law school career? Does the Board somehow find it morally abundant for students to do pro-bono litigation that has upheld the right of citizens of this state and this country while giving them valuable legal experience? I have serious concerns about the stance of the Board of Governors if the critical work and public service of the Center falls outside the scope of what they believe this University should be doing. I look forward to a response on these incredibly important questions, and please do not hesitate to reach out personally as I welcome further dialogue.

Name: Cesar Rodriguez

Date: 5/8/2017 18:41

Comments:

Our community needs this for the voices that are often unheard or silenced. For a campus that works to create and celebrate inclusion and diversity, the abandonment of the Center for Civil Rights goes inherently against University and student population values.

Name: Cameron Jernigan

Date: 5/8/2017 19:43

Comments:

The Center of Civil Rights is an essential part of not only civil rights initiatives for the state of North Carolina, but also an essential education tool for UNC law students. To remove it would not only be a disservice to the university, but the state overall. Removing the center would cause immediate and total damage to the school of law, university, and state overall.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: jon lo

Date: 5/8/2017 20:39

Comments:

I AM JON LONGSWORTH AND I APPROVE THIS MESSAGE:

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion.

Led by members who are mired in arbitrary ill-advised short sighted -- vested interest -- ideological opposition to the Center's work, the UNC Board of Governors is now considering a proposal to prohibit the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in any advocacy or direct representation on behalf of individuals, families or communities engaged in the struggle for equal justice.

Thousands of us are deeply dismayed that over 200 Centers and Institutes would be directly impacted by this proposal.

This is an extremely dangerous precedent; such a proposal potentially undermines the ability of greater University of North Carolina to generate research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy is one avenue through which all research is translated into action. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by the many UNC schools to initiate positive change in North Carolina.

The UNC Board of Governors will vote on this proposal, which will effectively shut down the Center, at an upcoming meeting.

We herewith express our unflinching opposition to this motion.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Dustin Moss

Date: 5/8/2017 20:48

Comments:

The Center for Civil Rights does such amazing an important work. The fact that the UNC Board of Governors wants to gut it is heart wrenching. As a student in the UNC system I think it is amazing that we have the Center for Civil Rights. It like many other aspects shows what an amazing light we are as a system.

Name: Kristen Powers

Date: 5/8/2017 21:11

Comments:

The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a critical institution for marginalized communities across the state. It has nothing to do with politics, but the protection of those who are often powerless due to decades of oppression, poverty, racism, and many other issues they do not have the ability to conquer on their own. They need the community and support that the Center provides. Removing the Center's right to stand up with these people would be a spit in the face of those who need the most help. Do not restrict their ability to represent these individuals.

Name: Roxana Ungureanu

Date: 5/8/2017 21:23

Comments:

Keep the center for civil rights!! It does such important work that needs to continue!!

Name: Adrienne Bonar

Date: 5/8/2017 23:32

Comments:

Please on not allow them Center for Civil Rights from being gutted of its ability to do its critical work. It is incredibly important to preserve the integrity of an institution that helps educate future attorneys and helps defend North Carolina's most vulnerable communities from civil rights attacks.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Lawrence Grossberg

Date: 5/9/2017 06:14

Comments:

The Civil Rights Center is part of a long and proud history of UNC, and of the state. It is part of the purpose of the university to serve the people of the state, all of the people, in whatever ways the expertise of its faculty, staff and students will allow. If you close the Center down, you will be doing great harm to the proud heritage of the university, and you will be further shaming the state in the eyes of the country and the world. UNC is one of the shining stars of North Carolina. Why would you want to tear it down for your own short-term political purposes?

Name: William Blau

Date: 5/9/2017 06:57

Comments:

I am writing in support of the Center for Civil Rights at UNC School of Law, which has a longstanding tradition of providing much needed legal representation to NC's underprivileged, low-income, and vulnerable citizens. My son is a criminal defense attorney who obtained his law degree at UNC where he received an outstanding education. Low income citizens are vulnerable to unjust and unequal treatment in our legal system; they deserve legal assistance, in the same way as the School of Medicine (where I was a professor prior to retirement) provides free or low-cost medical services to such citizens. Partisan politics is crippling our system of government; it should have no place in the training of students in the UNC system.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Michael Gerhardt

Date: 5/9/2017 07:43

Comments:

Besides violating the system, university, and law school missions, the BOG proposal would violate the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution. In NAACP v. Button (1963), the Supreme Court ruled that litigation, like that performed by the CCR, is "a means for achieving the lawful objectives of equality of treatment by all government . . . It is thus a form of political expression. Groups which find themselves unable to achieve their objectives through the ballot frequently turn to the courts." The Court quoted precedent declaring "'free trade in ideas' means free trade in the opportunity to persuade to action . . ." This case is the foundation for Citizens United and every group using litigation to express and advance its mission. Moreover, singling out the CCR for its protected activity is disparate treatment violating equal protection.

What lesson will the BOG teach the State and our students with this proposal? It is obviously ideological. Its purported basis -- saving money -- is not credible.

Button declared litigation like that done by the CCR could be curbed only to "advance [s]ubstantial regulatory interest[s], in the form of substantive evils flowing from" the CCR. There are no such harms here.

The BOG should support the law school's mission and experiential learning. The CCR's activities are protected and similar to those at leading law schools. Please look for ways to improve not harm our stature and programs.

Name: Cheyenna Phelps

Date: 5/9/2017 07:52

Comments:

Advocacy and activism for people of color is a comforting and necessary thing. To take away something working for civil rights, of which it is clear there are some discrepancies for how they apply to minorities, is to be the cause of injustice towards POC. Don't take away yet another positive thing working for equality of all people, but most importantly blacks and other people of color; it is simply not fair.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Joseph Quirk

Date: 5/9/2017 09:28

Comments:

Prohibiting the Center for Human Rights from engaging in advocacy or direct action for individuals, families or communities in need of equal justice would be a step backward for egalitarianism and parity.

Name: Moira Johnson

Date: 5/9/2017 09:53

Comments:

I am a graduate student at UNC Chapel Hill. Please do not shut down the Center for Civil Rights at UNC, Chapel Hill, affiliated with the Law School. It provides invaluable services that everyone - students, faculty, staff, and the general public benefits from. It provides valuable training for future lawyers and provides people in need with support and assistance when they cannot afford alternative representation.

Moira Johnson

Name: Melissa Bostrom

Date: 5/9/2017 10:13

Comments:

As a North Carolina native and resident as well as an alumna of UNC Chapel Hill twice over, I enthusiastically support the work of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. The Center provides a key opportunity for law students interested in civil rights to gain experience through research and practice both. The Center offers UNC a competitive advantage in recruiting students interested in civil rights. Moreover, the Center's work on behalf of the citizens of North Carolina aligns precisely with the UNC system flagship institution's mission, dedicated to the service of North Carolina and its people. Note that the mission is not dedicated to serving the goals of North Carolina's government. The Center's work is important work; civil rights work is necessarily adversarial to government at times. Its efforts take place in the space between the good of the citizens of North Carolina and government policies and laws. Challenging the status quo is a necessary and integral function of effective civil rights law. North Carolina's associations with civil rights historically are not positive ones in the national consciousness; allowing the Center for Civil Rights to continue with its good work is one small step toward a more perfect state and union.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: LES & BARBARA LANG

Date: 5/9/2017 10:58

Comments:

ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD REASON EXISTS ON THIS SIDE OF SANITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE TO ELIMINATE SUCH AN IMPORTANT UNC CENTER. CLEARLY, THE AIM TO DO SO IS POLITICAL, POTENTIALLY AFFECTING THE WELFARE OF ANY AND ALL NORTH CAROLINIANS.

POLITICIZED DECISIONS SUCH AS DUMPING HAZARDOUS WASTE IN A SPECIFIC COMMUNITY, CLOSING A LOCAL HOSPITAL RATHER THAN FIND WAYS TO SUPPORT OR IMPROVE ITS VITAL SERVICES OR MYRIAD OTHER SUCH CYNICAL CHOICES, ALL BECOME POSSIBLE IN A STATE WHOSE LEADERS CAN BLITHELY STEP AWAY FROM DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR THEIR FELLOW TAR HEELS.

Name: Seth Yeazel

Date: 5/9/2017 11:43

Comments:

Henry London boasted and reminisced, during antebellum Chapel Hill history, about his adventure with numerous fellow UNC affiliates and the county sheriff. London and others recaptured runaway slaves and thought it quite humorous they had even injured one. London was later elected a Pittsboro representative, and nominated by the Board of Governors to become a trustee.

I came to UNC from FL to pursue a career in civil rights, and the Center for Civil Rights brought me here. NC, the Vale of Humility between Two Mountains of Conceit, has a long history of progressive activism against the scourge and legacy of the South's slavery. Though NC has suffered through evils like Ruffin's infamous State v. Mann decision, NC also claims a history where Justice William Gaston criticized this legacy of "the worst evil" as early as 1832.

That is the vein where the Center for Civil Rights, and leaders like Julius Chambers, comes to light. As champions of NC's brighter history, the Center and its members fight against the dark underbelly NC has indulged throughout history.

In addition to helping craft better lawyers (I have already worked to craft my skills with the Center through about twenty hours of Pro Bono) this Board of Governors should be asking itself on which side of history it would like to stand. In 150 years does the BOG still want to be known as the group who fights against NC's own citizens or a group who helped prod the long arc of moral of the moral universe toward justice?

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Valerie Nieman

Date: 5/9/2017 12:58

Comments:

I am a strong supporter of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. In the midst of national concerns over policing, Black Lives Matter, cyberbullying, Muslim bans, transgender rights, sexual violence, hate crimes - the list goes on - how can North Carolina turn away from its longtime leadership role?

Please support the retention and expansion of the Center for Civil Rights.

Name: Gordon Thomas

Date: 5/9/2017 14:34

Comments:

As the nation's 9th largest state and economy, North Carolina has a commitment to ensure that citizens from every corner of the state have an opportunity to thrive. Throughout our state and nation's history, we have learned that social, economic and environmental systems are not always established for people from all backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses to do so.

Since 2001, The Center for Civil Rights has provided an invaluable service to citizens of North Carolina by holding local and state governments, educational systems and businesses accountable in areas related to education, housing/community development, economic justice and voting rights.

The advocacy and support that The Center for Civil Rights provides has a positive impact on the nearly 10 million people who call North Carolina home. I encourage anyone who cares about the future of our state and who understands that we are only as strong as our weakest link, to support this center. We will ultimately be judged by what we do "to the least of these", which is an essential focus of this great center.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Helen Wolfson

Date: 5/9/2017 15:14

Comments:

I am concerned about the proposal to limit litigation initiated and handled by centers and institutes at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law and the North Carolina Central University Law School. This kind of activity is crucial to a legal education. In fact, Chapter 3 ("Program of Legal Education") from the American Bar Association's 2016-2017 Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools states that legal education shall include "one or more experiential course(s) totaling at least six credit hours." It goes on to say that "A law school shall provide substantial opportunities to students for:(1) law clinics or field placement(s);and (2) student participation in pro bono legal services, including law-related public service activities."

Some have suggested preventing these clinics from suing the State. As I have grown older, I have become more aware of the skewed nature of our society in general and of our justice system in particular. Both fail to be truly equitable. Both have different standards for people of color, of low socio-economic status, and of little power. If the government is involved in inequitable practices and injustice, it should not be spared investigation and legal action. That our state's law schools are training their students to work on behalf of marginalized populations is something that we should be proud of, not something that we should be trying to restrict.

Name: Vivek Somasundaram

Date: 5/9/2017 16:52

Comments:

I am writing as an UNC alumnus to voice my opinion that the Center for Civil Rights is an essential institution to the families and underprivileged demographics that it advocates for in the South. During my time at UNC, I volunteered for various community-based organizations like the Community Empowerment Fund and saw the impact that these organizations not only have on the community and how necessary they are to fight systematic divisions in poverty race, and class. I believe this institution should be preserved in order to keep fighting the systematic inequalities that are present and to give those who are under represented or underprivileged education and a voice in the community.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Marcy Lansman

Date: 5/9/2017 17:19

Comments:

I urge the Board of Governors NOT to stop the Center for Civil Rights from litigating against the state. The Center has provided representation for NC citizens who faced injustice in many forms, citizens who were often too poor to seek private representation. The Center has also provided law students with experience in taking on public service litigation. It's services fall squarely within the mission of the University to "extend knowledge-based services...to the citizens of North Carolina."

Name: Susan Attermeier

Date: 5/9/2017 17:22

Comments:

As the proud owner of two advanced degrees from UNCH as well as 14 years of teaching there, I have always been aware of the importance of engaging students in the community. It benefits both groups. The Law School has a long history of training its students using this method. I am perplexed by any decision to limit this activity, particularly in the absence of any good reason to do so.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Michael Schwalbe

Date: 5/9/2017 19:14

Comments:

Dear Members of the UNC Board of Governors:

I have been following the local news stories and op-eds concerning the Center for Civil Rights at the UNC-Chapel Hill law school. Based on everything I've read, it seems to me that the CCR is performing a vital function in advocating for -- through litigation -- the rights of powerless groups in North Carolina. Unfortunately, we still very much need this kind of public service, and I can't think of a better place to house this service than in the state's flagship public university. UNC is without doubt where the CCR belongs, especially since this also facilitates the training the next generation of public service lawyers. Honestly, I think the CCR should be honored for its work and its work expanded.

Sincerely,

Michael Schwalbe

Professor

North Carolina State University

Name: Erin Passaly

Date: 5/9/2017 20:48

Comments:

I support the resolutions proposed by both the Orange County Board of Commissioners and the Carrboro Board of Aldermen to urge the Board of Directors to reject the proposal. The Center for Civil Rights is important to both UNC-Chapel Hill and North Carolina Central University and the decision to eliminate the Center would negatively impact low-income people who are supported by the Center. The Center for Civil Rights is influential at local, state, and national levels in advocating for racial and economic equality. Eliminating the Center would take away resources for low-income people who are looking to be treated fairly and justly. The North Carolina Board of Governors should reject the proposal for the sake of equality.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Sharon House

Date: 5/9/2017 22:50

Comments:

Please retain the Civil Rights centers as they have existed since their formation. Litigation on behalf of North Carolina's most violated residents are effectively defended and students learn first hand in the process through the work these centers and institutes perform. This work makes North Carolina a better place for us all.

One outstanding example of their work was case involving the landfill proposed in Brunswick County.

As a life-long multi generational resident of North Carolina I value the work these centers do for students. Being involved in this work as they go through Law School is an invaluable process that can only truly be learned first hand with experienced and talented leadership.

Please do not restrict or otherwise limit the work these centers do for the educational advancement of our students.

Name: Sue Hunter

Date: 5/9/2017 22:51

Comments:

The Center for Civil Rights serves a critical role in training students, much like other clinics at UNC and law schools throughout the country. The politically motivated attack from the BOG only serves to further diminish the reputation of our state and our flagship university. I ask that you vote to support the Center for Civil Rights and protect their ability to litigate against discrimination and inequality.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Philip Tegeler

Date: 5/10/2017 05:34

Comments:

Dear members of the Board of Governors:

I am the president and executive director of the Poverty & Race Research Action Council, a 28 year old Washington, DC based civil rights policy organization, and I am writing in support of the UNC Center for Civil Rights and its crucial work on behalf of low income families in North Carolina. My organization works closely with the Center, primarily on issues of educational equity and diversity, and the Center's director also serves on our Board. The Center for Civil Rights and its staff play an important leadership role in civil rights, not just in North Carolina, but nationally. The Center's staff is known for its integrity and very high quality of legal work.

Having a strong state civil rights organization is an essential check on infringements of individual rights by local governments in our democratic system, and state government leaders should not be afraid of having such a watchdog group in place to protect low income families and victims of discrimination. To restrict the Center from engaging in litigation would be taking away an essential resource from families who literally have nowhere else to turn. We urge you to maintain the current status of the Center so it can continue its important work on behalf of North Carolina families.

Sincerely,
Philip Tegeler

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Dennis Welch

Date: 5/10/2017 06:53

Comments:

Because the Center for Civil Rights at UNC functions entirely without state funding, it is very difficult to see why the Board of Governors would even consider closing it, let alone follow through with doing so.

The Center contributes significantly to the university's mission, which is to serve all the people of North Carolina, not merely the well-off and influential. In the present era when civil and even human rights are under assault throughout America from the federal to the local levels, the work of the Center is absolutely essential because it helps the vulnerable and defenseless: the poor, minorities, and the environment. If ours is to be a civil society, these too deserve, indeed require, legal assistance.

Were the Board to close the Center for Civil Rights--the mere thought of this should appall every person on the Board--it would disregard all the important work that the Center does: fighting environmental injustice, unfair housing, school desegregation, etc., etc.

In addition to working on behalf of the defenseless and disadvantaged, the Center provides students with much real-world experience in the law, making sure that it serves Citizens without means as justly as it does those who can afford legal assistance.

Please do the thing: please do not close the Center for Civil Rights at UNC.

Name: Valerie Warren

Date: 5/10/2017 07:02

Comments:

Do not restrict the ability of these schools to participate in litigation or other practices of law in any way. These are public institutions, and the practice of law for the common good benefits us all. These resources are critical to the community and are funded by the community.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Paul Lindsay

Date: 5/10/2017 07:44

Comments:

To the Board of Governors:

As an emeritus faculty member in Sociology from UNC-Greensboro, I urge you to keep open the Center for Civil Rights at UNC-Chapel Hill. I taught students for many years. One of the best ways for any student to learn is through practical experience. This is especially true in any professional field such as law. The Center for Civil Rights plays an important role in the university's task of teaching.

Paul Lindsay

Name: Amanda Ray

Date: 5/10/2017 07:55

Comments:

As a member of the NC Bar I have spent many hours on pro bono work assisting lower income individuals with viable claims, who have been discriminated against, and who have been the target of wrongdoing that could potentially utterly ruin their lives. These people cannot afford a lawyer and have no means to navigate the sometimes complicated legal and administrative systems. There is a huge need for legal services for the poor - they help create equity in a system that favors those with money. Allowing the Center to continue with litigation is a huge part of helping to correct the significant imbalance of power and justice.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Melissa Jacoby

Date: 5/10/2017 08:21

Comments:

I recently worked with the Center for Civil Rights on a conference on economic justice and the law. It was among the best conferences I have ever attended; participants presented rigorous research and analysis. Critiques of federal laws and government policies were based on fidelity to U.S. Constitution, not on the party of lawmakers. The dialogue was a strong example of how the Center's activities, litigation and otherwise, are directed to the study and defense of fundamental values embodied in the Constitution on which no political party has an exclusive claim.

The Center has been instrumental in attracting excellent students, not to mention faculty and staff, to UNC Law; students seek top-level experiential learning that, not incidentally, law school accreditation bodies have increasingly emphasized and required. Board action against the Center puts at risk the University's larger goals of sustaining and improving the local, state, national, and international reputation of the law school.

Please allow this legacy of Julius Chambers to continue its important work.

Name: Lisa Poteet

Date: 5/10/2017 08:36

Comments:

Why in the world, when Civil Rights are under attack to degree we have not seen in my lifetime, would you consider closing or fundamentally changing the mission of the Center for Civil Rights? This seems like a partisan move by political leaders who oppose the center mission of supporting civil rights and social justice. What a sorry stand for the Board of Governors to take. At least there is still time to shift toward a moral stance and toward the right side of history. Please do.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: John Espenshade

Date: 5/10/2017 08:37

Comments:

Most would likely agree that a primary function of this Board is to foster an environment in which knowledge is created and the boundaries of ignorance are pushed back. Does limiting the advocacy of the UNC Center for Civil Rights (CCR) advance the mission of UNC? No. Limiting the advocacy role of the CCR merely restricts the teaching mission of the law school.

A few weeks ago Campbell University dedicated new and impressive facilities at their law school to train students on trial advocacy while UNC law school investigates cutting back advocacy training. One school has just expanded advocacy resources; the other considers curtailing them. Both can't be right.

If this Board goes through with the plan to diminish the role of the CCR, what's next? Is it going to limit study at the Gillings School of Public Health that deals with environmental sciences and engineering because members of this board object to research into air quality and atmospheric processes?

John Espenshade, Halifax County Branch of the NAACP
Littleton, NC

Name: Pedro Lasch

Date: 5/10/2017 08:42

Comments:

Please do not close the Center for Civil Rights at UNC, Chapel Hill. The work they do is essential for our state and the region, and should in fact be supported further, rather than threatened and undermined. The quality and importance of their work brings a good reputation to our great UNC CH university. Closing it would not only be unfortunate in terms of losing its important functions, but it would send a very negative message about UNC and NC in times when civil rights are more crucial than ever, and when our regional reputation is already suffering due to the political overreach of recent years.

Pedro Lasch
FHI Social Practice Lab Director
Associate Research Professor
Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies
Duke University

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Esther Gabara

Date: 5/10/2017 08:42

Comments:

I am writing as a resident of Carrboro, NC, to register my dismay that the NC Board of Governors would attempt to end the crucial work that the Center for Civil Rights at UNC, Chapel Hill does for our community, our state, and our entire nation. The center provides data driven research that is needed to evaluate and address the conditions of our most vulnerable citizens. The training of lawyers is by definition the training of "advocates." Any pretense that a public university ought not to train lawyers to advocate effectively is a call for the end of public legal education in North Carolina. The Board of Governors must use its power and privilege to support the efforts of the Center for Civil Rights rather than end them, or else be revealed as an instrument working to undermine the very foundations of our American democracy.

Name: Jake Edwards

Date: 5/10/2017 08:47

Comments:

As a student at UNC Law, I urge the Board of Governors to reject the proposal to prohibit UNC centers and institutes from engaging in litigation and legal representation. The UNC Center for Civil Rights gives the law school a competitive edge in recruiting the best law students and was a large factor in my decision to attend UNC Law. During my time at UNC Law, my interactions with the work of the Center for Civil Rights have been educational and inspirational. The staff have provided experiences to improve my understanding of legal work through the mooted of oral arguments and discussions about the realities involved with the day to day work of practicing law. This proposal would undermine the important work of the UNC Center for Civil Rights and ignore the mission of the University to provide public service to all of North Carolina. The legal support provided by the UNC Center for Civil Rights to historically marginalized communities of this state embodies the duty of a public university to engage in public service. The passing of this proposal would be a loss to the University, the students of UNC Law, and the entire state of North Carolina.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Diane Nelson

Date: 5/10/2017 09:01

Comments:

Greetings, I write to express my very enthusiastic support for the UNC Center for Civil Rights and the enormously important work they do for the citizens of North Carolina (including Blue Devils!!). I am disgusted and enraged with the BOG's proposal to curtail their ability to defend the work for justice in our beloved state and I strongly demand that you defeat any measure aimed at curtailing their advocacy work on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our community. The Center should be encouraged to do their vital work in every way - financially, intellectually, and ethically. Anything else is a defeat for democracy and the public values that UNC has upheld for over 200 years. DO NOT destroy this important part of our community!!!

Thank you for your attention!

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane Nelson

Duke University

Name: Leah Neal

Date: 5/10/2017 09:08

Comments:

The UNC Center for Civil Rights is not only essential to the broader UNC system's legacy of leadership and community engagement, but, specifically for those who have chosen to study at UNC Law, it also exemplifies everything that the law embodies. The law is a service profession, one that actively works to improve the lives of other people, and the Center advocates for those most in need, the very people the law is meant to serve. Advocacy is a key part of this university's tradition; serving people in the community is not only beneficial for those being served, but it also helps young lawyers hone their client communication and negotiation skills. As a graduating 3L, I know the value of those skills firsthand, and it would be a loss if those who come after me did not get to learn as well. UNC's purpose in this state is twofold: to educate the students it serves and to be a positive force in the community. The Center and its advocacy efforts are integral to that purpose, and diminishing its purpose in any way would do nothing more than diminish a long tradition of service and a noble purpose of community engagement.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Edwin Moore

Date: 5/10/2017 09:09

Comments:

My name is Edwin Belton Moore and I'm a sophomore Park Scholar at NC State University. I am also a graduate of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. I am from Prospect, NC and am an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe. As someone whose ancestors spent a great deal of their lives fighting for the civil rights of my people, I am in strong support of the UNC Center for Civil Rights in its mission and its commitment the advancement of civil rights and social justice.

Not too long ago I would have been denied admission to NC State simply because of my race. Because of the work of attorneys, like those trained at the UNC Center for Civil Rights, I have been able to pursue my dreams of higher education at two UNC system institutions. I have gained a great deal in my pursuit of higher education, and I have done everything in my will to give back to NCSSM and NC State. Barring the Center from advocating for the people of North Carolina, including members of my Tribe, will erase the great progress that has been made thus far in our state.

After graduating from NC State, I hope to attend law school, possibly at UNC. I plead with you to allow the Center to continue advocating for justice for the people of North Carolina, so that one day I may work with them to learn how to advocate for others myself. Our state has a great legacy of making continual progress towards equality and justice for all, and I trust that you all will continue this great progress. Thank you.

Name: Katelin Kaiser

Date: 5/10/2017 09:09

Comments:

This proposal is morally wrong. Passing this proposal which would prohibit centers and institutes affiliated with the University from engaging in legal representation or litigation on behalf of clients, is an attack on student education as well as minority communities. The proposal at hand directly targets and strictly limits the impactful work of the UNC Center for Civil Rights: representing poor communities of color across North Carolina to help them obtain basic infrastructure, equal access to education, environmental justice, adequate housing, and greater civic engagement and political participation.

The UNC Center for Civil Rights provides students--future lawyers and leaders in North Carolina--with a moral incentive to promote equal rights and justice for all people of North Carolina.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Jennifer Weaver

Date: 5/10/2017 09:10

Comments:

I write to you as a proud graduate of West Charlotte HS, where I attended at the tail end of truly integrated schools in the Charlotte Mecklenberg system. The success of that school was due to the efforts of Julius Chambers, great North Carolinian and great American. Since Mr Chambers' Swann legacy has been dismantled, so has the success of my former school. I write with little hope that the Center's ability to continue its work will be saved, which is a terrible and helpless feeling - and I fear that is partly the point. But I hope this reaches just enough of you to make you stop and deeply consider whether you want YOUR legacy on the NC BOG to be dismantling one of Mr Chambers' other legacies - the incredible work of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. The Center has done exemplary work on behalf of poor communities, poor school districts, and should be allowed to continue to do so. These communities would never be able to attain this high quality of representation without the Center. Surely that is something we all value. Surely? None of the reasons that have been given for barring the Center from continuing its work hold water. I know you all know this. I hope your consciences can speak loudly to you - please vote to allow the UNC Center for Civil Rights to continue on as it has since its inception. Thank you.

Name: Mark Richardson

Date: 5/10/2017 09:24

Comments:

While I write as a private citizen, my views are informed by my experiences as a graduate of the UNC School of Law, my 31 years as a practicing attorney, my membership on the Board of Visitors of NC Central School of Law, and personal interactions with law students over the years through internship and mentoring programs in which I have participated.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed policy change currently in front of the UNC Board of Governors. Now more than ever we need students to emerge from law school not only knowing how to think like a lawyer but how to actually do the work of a lawyer. Our Centers and Institutes provide one of the best and most efficient ways of doing this. To limit the scope of what types of matters may be handled and what types of actions may be brought by the Centers and Institutes serves to directly limit and impair the quality of the education students in our state-run law schools are getting.

I have seen first hand the growth in confidence and competence that comes when a student is involved in handling a real-life matter for a real-life client through a Center or Institute. The current proposal will effectively remove this opportunity from our students, not only doing a great disservice to the clients aided by the Center or Institute, but also doing a disservice to quality of the legal education provided to our students. This action seems unnecessary, unwise, and unwarranted. I urge you to reject it.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Becky Fields

Date: 5/10/2017 09:31

Comments:

As someone educated in the North Carolina school system, as a family member of litigators, and as a mother of a son deciding on law school in the upcoming year, I am extremely concerned about the potential closure of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. It is an important entity to the University, students, and state, but that has already been deeply discussed. What I would like to touch on is the notion that a shuttering of the Center could be construed as an attack on academic freedom of the individuals who do the work there, something that damages the reputation of our system additionally at a time when we are already trying to rebuild it. Also as a mother, I strongly believe the message that this decision will send to strip the Center of its ability will play into my son's decision on what school to attend. If this proposal goes through, it raises questions: where will these closures stop, does the University system care about academic freedom to the extent which it should, and will the closures impact the value of my son's degree. I am extremely concerned about all of these things and hope to get a strong response against this proposal from the Board.

Name: Morgan McLaughlin

Date: 5/10/2017 09:39

Comments:

The proposal you all are considering that would prohibit centers and institutes affiliated with the University from engaging in legal representation or litigating on behalf of clients is absolutely absurd. The BOG should and must be a nonpartisan group of people ensuring the success of the UNC system.

This proposal DIRECTLY targets the UNC Center for Civil Rights, which has helped and represented low income communities of color across NC. moreover, it impacts UNC's ability to engage in our longstanding commitment to public service.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Tyler Abboud

Date: 5/10/2017 09:42

Comments:

Closing the UNC Center for Civil Rights will be a lasting stain not only on the university's legacy, but on the Board of Governor's legacy as a whole and each of those members voting for closure individually. The Center for Civil Rights has stood for people who do not have the means to stand up for themselves. Closing it is a signal from the state that those individuals who the Center stands up for are irrelevant and not worthy of public service attorneys. I pray you reconsider or be forever cast in history as the politicians who wanted to strip people of their civil rights. American history is replete with a long list of such individuals who I need not mention here, but it suffices to say that they are not viewed at kindly.

Name: Judith Wegner

Date: 5/10/2017 09:46

Comments:

I've been a UNC Law faculty member (1981-2016), former dean (1989-99), President of the Association of American Law Schools (1995), co-author of a national study on legal education (2007), former Chair of the UNC-CH faculty (2003-06), and former chair of the UNC Faculty Assembly (2008-10).

The BOG needs to have credibility in reaching a decision regarding the future of the Center for Civil Rights (CCR). I have worked with the Center repeatedly. It does not foment litigation but encourages settlement on difficult issues like providing public water and sewer to poor, minority communities who have not been annexed. Some of the criticisms leveled against it have arisen because it has been successful in litigation against local governments when large law firms representing such defendants have kept litigating, and increasing fees, rather than settling when they were wrong on the law.

The BOG also needs to realize that shutting down the CCR will have consequences. Accreditors will challenge University and law school accreditation. Purported distinctions between centers and clinics won't matter. Student and faculty recruitment and retention will suffer. The law school will accordingly fall in the rankings. Student education will suffer. And the cause of justice will suffer.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Emily Turner

Date: 5/10/2017 09:51

Comments:

I write to express my full-throated support for the UNC Center for Civil Rights and its extraordinary litigation efforts. This attempt to silence the Center and gut its work is a betrayal of the mission of the law school and the university, and the legacy of Julius Chambers, the Center's founder. The Center was crucial to my learning as a young law student, and is one of the reasons I was able to return to my home state to begin my career as an attorney.

I am proud of the Center, and UNC should be proud as well; The Center's work over the past decade has epitomized and made real the University's mission for hundreds of students and thousands of North Carolina residents. There should be no question that the Center is a flagship center in this state and in this educational system. The nakedly partisan attack on this outstanding Center must be rejected; we should embrace our highest ideals and celebrate the rich history of civil rights advocacy in our state.

Name: Rebecca Felton

Date: 5/10/2017 10:07

Comments:

As a life long resident of NC and a graduate of the University of NC at Greensboro and Duke University as well as a strong supporter of civil rights for all citizens, I am dismayed at the proposed policy change which would restrict the ability of the CIC to provide legal representation for North Carolina citizens in need. In my work advocating for the rights of individuals with special needs, I have worked with the Duke Law Center and have seen how important such work is in ensuring the rights of our most vulnerable citizens. I am currently involved with folks in Brunswick County, NC who are advocating for the rights of immigrant families who have children in our schools and the CIC is critical in those efforts. Please do not restrict this crucial work in North Carolina as it is needed now more than ever. We should be expanding these efforts, not restricting them.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Ziola Kowzan

Date: 5/10/2017 10:11

Comments:

As a North Carolinian and an undergraduate student at UNC Chapel Hill I am concerned to learn that the UNC Board of Governors is considering taking away the UNC Center for Civil Rights' power to engage in litigation. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a nationally renowned program and an important asset to both the University and the people of North Carolina. The educational opportunities that the Center provides- including internships, postdoctoral fellowships, conferences, and hands-on learning through client counseling- make UNC School of Law stand out and shine brightly in the competitive environment of legal education. In addition to the Center's vital role in education, the Center invests in and empowers the people of North Carolina by providing much-needed legal representation in civil rights cases. Litigation is central to the Center's mission to advocate for the marginalized and ensure that future generations of attorneys are well-equipped to be leaders in their profession. I hope the Board will find that it would be a shame and a mistake to deny future law students and the people of North Carolina of the full educational and advocacy power of the UNC Center for Civil Rights.

Name: Alissa Ellis

Date: 5/10/2017 10:53

Comments:

The Center for Civil Rights (CCR) has been instrumental in providing access to legal support for disadvantaged communities across North Carolina (NC). It has done this by providing key legal experience to UNC Law students, myself included. As a second-year law student, I assisted with a CCR clinic to provide support to victims of NC's eugenics programs. My involvement with the CCR gave me key experience in legal interviewing, affidavit drafting, and provided my first experience with the NC administrative courts process. I strongly believe that the movement to dismantle the CCR is a partisan-based attack. Dismantling the CCR not in the interest of the UNC system's dual goal of educating students and supporting NC communities.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Emily Hecker

Date: 5/10/2017 11:20

Comments:

As a North Carolinian, a nurse, and a person who cares about those less fortunate than myself, I am deeply concerned to learn that the UNC Board of Governors is considering taking away the UNC Center for Civil Rights' power to engage in litigation. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a nationally renowned program and an important asset to both the University and the people of North Carolina. The educational opportunities that the Center provides make UNC School of Law stand out and shine brightly in the competitive environment of legal education. In addition to the Center's vital role in education, the Center invests in and empowers the people of North Carolina by providing much-needed legal representation in civil rights cases. Litigation is central to the Center's mission to both advocate for the marginalized and ensure that future generations of attorneys are well-equipped to be leaders in their profession. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is an invaluable resource that enables the university to fully engage in its service and educational missions. Please do not take this resource from the people of North Carolina.

Name: Daniele Armaleo

Date: 5/10/2017 11:28

Comments:

When I came to the US from Italy many years ago, I chose to settle in North Carolina because of its flagship universities, fostering the forward-looking culture that characterized this very special southern state. I felt honored to be able to contribute, by teaching biology at Duke University, to the tide lifting all boats in North Carolina. In a different and more powerful way, the Center for Civil Rights at UNC has contributed to the central mission of UNC and of any university worth of that name, of enhancing "the quality of life for all people in the State". Closing the Center for Civil Rights would represent a dramatic step backwards, dimming the light that has attracted people from all over the world to settle here and build a better North Carolina for all its citizens. I therefore urge the Board of Governors of the UNC system to protect and support the invaluable role that the Center plays for the university and for the State!

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Megan Bishop

Date: 5/10/2017 11:35

Comments:

As a law student, the Center for Civil Rights has been and will continue to be vital to my education, so long as it remains able to use the primary tool of the legal trade--litigation. I have participated in pro bono projects sponsored by the Center, and I plan to pursue an externship with them next year to dive more deeply into learning how to be a civil rights attorney. I hope that the Board of Governors at large will recognize this proposal for what it is: a partisan attack by an attorney with a personal agenda against the Center for Civil Rights. There is no conflict of interest with a university center or institute wielding a legitimate tool when the state violates people's civil rights. It is insulting to suggest that the Center should only "consult" with municipalities to help them come around to recognizing the rights of North Carolina's poor and vulnerable citizens. These citizens subsidize my education at UNC, and this university owes them a direct service for that sacrifice. I urge Chancellor Folt, President Spellings, and other UNC leaders to publicly stand with the Center for Civil Rights and do everything in their power to make sure the Board of Governors rejects the threatened restrictions on all system centers and institutes.

Name: April Giancola

Date: 5/10/2017 11:40

Comments:

I am against any efforts to close or curtail the essential work of the UNC CCR. As an attorney in our State, and someone who has not only been in the position to hire law students and grads but now in a position to help students find jobs, UNC CCR is an integral part of making sure our law students are ready for the practice of law. The market for attorneys is still very competitive. New attorneys need to hit the ground running with what they can actually do for an employer. The UNC CCR gives students real world, practical experience in civil rights litigation and advocacy. Additionally, the CCR serves a crucial function to represent the most vulnerable in our State who do not have the resources or knowledge to represent themselves. We are talking about the poor, children, and elderly in the most rural and misunderstood parts of our community. The UNC CCR has worked tirelessly to fight for justice and advocate for fellow North Carolinian's, and students play a vital role in this effort. It would be tragic for the citizens of NC to lose the UNC CCR, and most devastating for the student's loss of an opportunity to gain hands on, substantive learning experience.

April Giancola

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Nancy Brown

Date: 5/10/2017 11:41

Comments:

Dear Board of Governors,

The UNC Center for Civil Rights must be allowed to continue their work on behalf of some of most poor and underserved communities in the state. Communities that would never have access to this quality of representation. Threatening to harness them by denying the Center's ability to do this most vital and needed work on behalf of the least powerful would certainly be a black mark on the BoG and the University's legacy.

Sincerely,

Nancy S. Brown

Pittsboro, NC 27312

Name: Lisa Foley-Pellicani

Date: 5/10/2017 11:43

Comments:

The UNC Center for Civil Rights must be allowed to continue their work on behalf of some of most poor and underserved communities in the state, communities that would never have access to this quality of representation. Without the Center, all of North Carolina will lose. Please stand up for all North Carolinians.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Matt Tomsic

Date: 5/10/2017 11:59

Comments:

I am writing to express my support for the UNC Center for Civil Rights and my opposition to the proposal to bar centers from filing litigation being studied by the Board of Governors. Part of UNC Law's mission is to serve the people and institutions of North Carolina and much of that work occurs through the school's Centers and Institutes. The proposal notes that the Centers and Institutes should "strengthen and enrich University programs and activities associated with the University's core missions of research, instruction, and service."

UNC Law's Centers and Institutes (and other University's, like N.C. Central) meet each of those goals. They provide research through their representation and collect vast amounts of information for their areas of expertise. They provide instruction through real-world experience and pro bono opportunities for students, complementing the classroom curriculum. They provide service to the people of North Carolina, many of whom pay taxes to support the UNC system even though they may never set foot on a campus.

I hope that the Board does not enact this proposal and allows the University's Centers and Institutes to continue their great work. As William Friday, President of the UNC system from 1956-1986, said, "The problems of the people are the problems the university must deal with."

Name: Allison De Marco

Date: 5/10/2017 12:07

Comments:

I am writing in support of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. I fully support their work on behalf of some of the most disadvantaged citizens of North Carolina and expect our Board of Governors to do the same. The work they do to earn justice for their clients and train our upcoming attorneys is unparalleled and must continue. I know first hand of the important work they have done with the schools in Lenoir County to ensure that all children receive a sound education in schools that aren't segregated and children of color aren't subjected disproportionately to poorer quality schools. They already face deterioration and blight in their neighborhoods in Kinston. Please stand up for us and our poor residents and residents of color and preserve and defend the Center for Civil Rights. I'm counting on you to do the right thing. We're paying attention and we're organized.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Steven Gordon

Date: 5/10/2017 12:16

Comments:

I ask the BOG to preserve the University's long tradition of public service to ALL North Carolinians by rejecting the proposal to keep the Center for Civil Rights from engaging in legal representation and litigation.

Name: Emily Page

Date: 5/10/2017 12:21

Comments:

As a North Carolina citizen, voter, and taxpayer, I do not support the NC Board of Governors attempt to impede the UNC Center for Civil Rights. Those who desire healthy democratic institutions should never fear lawful opposition, regardless of partisan intentions. In fact, partisan opposition in this country is sometimes the only way government leaders are held accountable. The actions of the NC Board of Governors reflect a belief by those in power that their actions are not defensible and will not withstand scrutiny by our courts and our electorate. Ultimately, it reveals the intent of our leaders to reign over this state in the shadows with impunity. Foreclosing the UNC Center for Civil Right's ability to represent the citizens of North Carolina against their own legislature is for the North Carolina Legislature and the North Carolina Board of Governors to say to the citizens of North Carolina, "we are entitled to the best attorneys taxpayer money can buy--you, however, are not."

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Wendy Greene

Date: 5/10/2017 12:30

Comments:

I wish to amplify the voice of Andrew Foster. The policy to close the Center for Civil Rights at the School of Law at UNC-Chapel Hill, is misguided at best and a disingenuous political attack at worst.

The professional development opportunities that the Center offers are not just educational, they are now a required part of the curriculum at all U.S. law schools, including at Carolina Law.

The work of the center falls squarely within its public service mission. Far from being radical, the legal work of the center advances the most fundamental values of North Carolina, including upholding the right to vote, the right to receive a quality education, and the right to be free of discrimination. There shouldn't be any doubt that the mission of the state's public university system includes doing the work needed to secure these most basic rights of democratic citizenship.

Thank you.

Name: OJ McGhee

Date: 5/10/2017 12:34

Comments:

The Carolina Black Caucus, as representatives of the UNC workforce, is disheartened to observe members of our governing body launch disingenuous attacks on the UNC Center for Civil Rights. BOG members provided examples of two counties spending enormous amounts of money on litigation as one reason to discontinue the work of the Center. However, there was no mention about the injustice parents faced to defend segregation plans in one county school district. The other county attempted to expand a landfill through an African American community. Each county retain full-time counsel, but chose to pay for outside attorneys. How misleading is it that the Center is blamed for an economic shortfall, and not the discriminatory practices against its citizens?

The Caucus is disappointed that rather than celebrate the Center's great work defending the rights of North Carolinians, proceedings are underway in which we must defend the existence of an organization that has protected the rights of so many disenfranchised throughout our state. As the nation's first public university, we've remained faithful to our founders' charge to "duly encourage and promote all useful learning for the betterment of humanity." There is no greater example of this directive than UNC's Center for Civil Rights to uphold our teaching, research, & service mission. To that end, we ask that the BOG decline the proposal to prohibit centers and institutes at its public law schools from engaging in litigation.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Courtney Ritter

Date: 5/10/2017 12:37

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to continue funding for the UNC Center for Civil Rights. The work done by the Center is part of what sets North Carolina apart as a state admired by many in the southeast. I grew up in Alabama and moved here 16 years ago to raise my family in this state I love and respect.

North Carolina has long held a reputation of commitment to education, research and fairness.

Funding of this Center is part of that commitment. I ask you to continue this funding. This is one piece that proves that our state deserves its stellar reputation.

Thank you,

Courtney Ritter

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Adrien Wilkie

Date: 5/10/2017 12:44

Comments:

This is a group comment from affiliates of the Gillings Global School of Public Health:

Affiliates of UNC-CH School of Public Health have come together to support the Center for Civil Rights (CCR).

Over 200 Centers/Institutes will be directly impacted by this proposal. A dangerous precedent - the proposal potentially undermines experiential education opportunities provided throughout UNC for students. We have achieved our status as the #1 public school of public health in part through emphasis on service learning.

The mission of the SPH is "to improve public health, promote individual well-being and eliminate health inequities across NC and around the world." This includes generating research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation/legal advocacy is one avenue through which public health research is translated into action. The CCR has utilized research conducted by SPH to initiate positive change in NC. The critical collaboration with the CCR enables us to fulfill our SPH mission through advancement of public health for marginalized communities who might not otherwise have access to support.

Collaboration with the CCR is integral to our work at the SPH, but this proposal directly impacts all Centers/Institutes across the UNC system. We ask that the Board of Governors closely evaluate the potential unintended consequences of this broad policy.

Respectfully,

66 under/graduate students, 6 postdocs, 20 staff/faculty, 4 alumni/affiliates

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Susan Lassiter

Date: 5/10/2017 12:46

Comments:

The need for help from the UNC Center for Civil Rights hasn't lessened over the years. It's grown because of the wise counsel it gives to citizen groups who need knowledgeable, experienced advocates to direct them correctly. They're not a "knee-jerk, guns a blazing, looking for a fight" kind of folks, but carefully examine the problems and determine if civil rights are being violated? The Center works hard to bring community groups and elected officials together to resolve a problem rather than jumping into a law suit. The Center offers a valued extended service from your university to citizens of N.C.

It will be tragic to lose this institution that has admirably carried out its mission because of political mischief-making. Please value the good work of the Center and allow it to continue.

Susan Lassiter, Chair

Concerned Citizens for Successful Schools

Smithfield, N.C.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Joseph Polich

Date: 5/10/2017 12:48

Comments:

Mark Dorosin and his team are well-respected attorneys that attract the highest level talent to the UNC School of Law. They train students in a way that is inspired and empowering. Sadly, to remind the UNC Board of Governors of the importance and the effectiveness of this work is, well, wasted effort.

The motivations of the Board of Governors is revealed in the wildness of their claims against the Center. When the BOG claims the lawyers at the CCR are under no oversight, and the exact opposite is true, you know the BOG aims to slander. When they claim that the CCR aims to litigate no matter the cost, and the exact opposite is true and easily researched, you know the BOG aims to disparage. When the BOG claims that CCR attorneys are "government funded," and the exact opposite is true, you must wonder if they have any concern for truth at all. They made similar claims against the Poverty Center a few years ago as they shuttered it down during a lengthy (but just as nakedly political) "review" process. So while the BOG hasn't learned how to state a reasonable claim against a Center, they've at least learned to make the process a bit more efficient!

Why not take the next step? Just say you're closing a Center because a pay-to-play legal system works fine for the rich folk like yourselves. Or that you don't believe in legal training. Or the work of the Center is against the interests of a firm you work for. Or politics. That would at least be honest.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Heather Hunt

Date: 5/10/2017 12:54

Comments:

My first job after I graduated from UNC Law was as a fellow for the Center for Civil Rights. I cherish the experience. From learning firsthand from topnotch attorneys to performing actual (not classroom) legal research to writing memoranda, briefs and other court documents, it was a bracing immersion in the day-to-day realities of civil rights lawyering. I had the great fortune to partner with community activists whose fortitude, grace and resilience inspire me still. I worked on an astonishing range of projects and topics. Throughout it all, I came into contact with some of the foremost civil rights thinkers and community leaders in the country. It was occasionally exhausting, but always exhilarating.

CCR trained me to be an effective advocate. I know I'm not alone. I've worked with and known countless students and fellows in the past 15 years who have benefitted tremendously - personally and professionally- from the Center's tutelage. It provides an unparalleled educational opportunity. Additionally, by connecting students to the unmet legal needs of marginalized communities, the Center embodies the highest calling of the legal profession and reifies the University's frequent claims of devotion to public service.

Name: Ariel Smallwood

Date: 5/10/2017 13:09

Comments:

My experience as an intern with the CCR was invaluable as a law student. The training I received taught me the mechanics of legal practice and I gained first hand experience on legal strategy and development. Without the center, I would not have been as prepared as I was during my 2L year. Further, I learned the impact that the law could have on changing lives to the better and deepened my interest in public interest law. The center was a critical part of my law school experience and I hope future students can experience the same thing.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: John Gresham

Date: 5/10/2017 13:19

Comments:

It is a sad day for our State when you are considering a prohibition on the Center for Civil Rights litigating on behalf of citizens who are fighting for fair treatment by our State institutions. Julius Chambers, was my law partner for seventeen years. His dedication to the civil rights of all was the hallmark of his life's work. In his last decade he said on a number of occasions that he was disappointed that the gains in civil rights he had championed were eroding. He also remarked in his quiet way that he had faith that the civil rights struggle would continue after he was gone. A large part of this faith was premised on the work of the Center for Civil Rights.

I understand that one argument by a member of your Board is that Pitt County spent \$500,000 fighting an effort to make its school assignment plan fairer for poor and minority children after the Board of Education redrew its attendance zones. It is ironic that this case, championing the clients that Chambers represented is now the poster child for prohibiting the Center from litigation since in 1965 in adjoining Craven County his car was firebombed at a church as he spoke about unfair student assignment.

The law students who carry on the work of Julius Chambers in fighting injustice in our State are involved in one of the noblest causes of our profession. What better place to participate in this cause than at the Center.

Name: Kathryn Sabbeth

Date: 5/10/2017 13:39

Comments:

I am deeply troubled by the investigation of the Civil Rights Center and the threats of interference with its activities. In the allotted 200 words, I cannot adequately address all of the reasons why the situation is troubling, so I will focus on one particular reason that affects me as a member of the faculty. The threats of interference, let alone the potential impact of carrying them out, severely damage the reputation and intellectual vibrancy of the University. I just last night returned from presenting at an academic conference in Denver, where colleagues from various institutions across the country approached me to express dismay regarding the events unfolding at UNC. I can also say from personal experience that this situation has created a practical challenge for hiring and retention. The perception of a negative climate for academic freedom has been raised as a concern by potential faculty members I have been involved in trying to recruit. Admittedly, the investigation of the Center's activity makes me wonder whether my own work could become the target of such investigation. This makes it difficult to provide candid yet enticing answers to the impressive scholars we aspire to attract.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Ryan Sheffield

Date: 5/10/2017 13:49

Comments:

As a student at the University of North Carolina School of Law, I want to express my strong support for the Center for Civil Rights. Importantly, I believe that engaging in litigation is essential to the Center's ability to serve as a resource for law students and the community at large. To deny the Center its ability to engage in litigation would be a disservice to the students of Carolina Law, the greater community, and the legacy of Julius Chambers. I strongly oppose any measure that would limit the Center's ability to engage in litigation on behalf of our state's most vulnerable citizens.

Name: Beth Judge

Date: 5/10/2017 13:50

Comments:

Please consider keeping the Center open. Closing or limiting it's purpose would be a detrimental blow to those persons and the community the Center serves!

Name: Michael Ogle

Date: 5/10/2017 13:55

Comments:

I support the Center for Civil Rights because not to is to oppose our constitution and common sense. Throughout history, Americans' rights have always needed protecting. Today and the future are no different. I implore the Board of Governors to let the Center do its work, let the Center practice law and represent clients, no matter whom they oppose. It is right. It is just. It is American. And it is the legacy of Julius Chambers, who not so long ago himself, despite being top of his UNC law school class, could not attend his school's country club banquet in "liberal" Chapel Hill because of the color of his skin.

Name: Brenna Sheffield

Date: 5/10/2017 14:04

Comments:

I am a student at University of North Carolina School of Law and I would like to express my support of the Center for Civil Rights and stress the importance of the Center's ability to litigate. I believe that the Center embodies the school's history of support of public interest, the community, and educating Carolina Law students. Furthermore, hindering or closing the Center would harm this community and undermine the practical learning the Center provides for Carolina Law students.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Howard Lintz

Date: 5/10/2017 14:08

Comments:

UNC "serves North Carolina, the United States, and the world through teaching, research, and public service." The Center for Civil Rights' litigation efforts serve two of those objectives: teaching and public service. It trains law students and young lawyers, and it serves the public good.

I interned at the Center for Civil Rights. My experience there was central in shaping me as an attorney, and every student and attorney who has worked there probably feels the same.

The Center represents poor North Carolinians and racial minorities. Pursuing safety, opportunity, and equality for low-wealth and marginalized communities is public service. I ask you to utter this sentence aloud: The Center serves the poorest among us.

What makes the Center so valuable is the consolidation of research with litigation – which is to say the consolidation of understanding with action. The idea is precisely to obtain knowledge about the circumstances of North Carolinians and use that knowledge, along with a good-faith application of the law, to improve their lives. Absent litigation, the efforts are reduced to mere ideas.

Crucially, this measure would reflect poorly on our state in the nation's eyes.

I urge you to oppose the litigation ban.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Allan Rosen

Date: 5/10/2017 14:11

Comments:

I am opposed to the proposed litigation ban for the Center for Civil Rights. While a grad student at UNC I took 2 classes at the Law School. Jack Boger was my professor for Race and Poverty Law and Mark Dorosin was in the same class. I learned much from both and appreciate Mark's continuing dedication in the field.

The Center is a credit to the State and the University in the cause of social justice. Its work is in the finest tradition of American democratic ideals.

I moved to Chapel Hill from Birmingham, AL. I lived there, my mom's hometown, from age 9 to 31. I've read a fair amount about the civil rights movement and learned that one of the main reasons Birmingham leaders turned away from Bull Connor and his ilk after the deadly bombings at the 16th Street Baptist Church may be relevant for the issue at hand.

It turns out a group of businessmen were on a Chamber of Commerce junket in Tokyo when that act of domestic terrorism became international news. Sadly, yet fortunately too, the white business leaders needed that horrific event to make their peace with, and become advocates for, desegregation.

I realize the proposed litigation ban isn't an act of violent terrorism. However, it would be a death blow for legal education at UNC in the time-honored tradition of social justice advocacy.

I implore the Board of Governors to reject the litigation ban. Instead please stand brave against reactionary forces that diminish our state and fine university at home and abroad.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Evan Benz

Date: 5/10/2017 14:12

Comments:

I was very disappointed to hear that the UNC Board of Governors is considering a proposal that would forbid the UNC Center for Civil Rights from engaging in litigation. I learned about how to be a civil rights lawyer as a volunteer at the Center while I was a student at UNC School of Law. The work of the Center for Civil Rights continues to inspire me in my current practice assisting immigrants and refugees.

BOG member Steven Long has been the most vocal critic of the Center and its work. The law firm where Long is a partner, Parker Poe, was on the opposite side of the Center for Civil Rights in a lawsuit involving environmental racism in Brunswick County. Parker Poe has a sizeable practice representing counties and municipalities across the state. Steven Long is now pushing this proposal to eliminate the Center's ability to litigate. Long's affiliation with Parker Poe calls into question his impartiality as a BOG member considering this proposal. With such an obvious ethical conflict of interest, I hope Long will recuse himself from any votes taken on this proposal. At the very least, I hope he'll be more transparent about this moving forward.

Name: Priya Sreenivasan

Date: 5/10/2017 14:15

Comments:

I am a UNC alumni and a future law student, pursuing a public interest law career. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a huge draw for involvement with UNC, and should be preserved. Shutting the Center down would be an immense law for UNC as an institution, and the people in the south the Center staff work for every day.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Jamey Lowdermilk

Date: 5/10/2017 14:16

Comments:

Dear Board of Governors,

Please allow me to express my sincere concern that whatever benefits the UNC system may gain from limiting the role of the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina School of Law, those benefits are likely outweighed by associated costs. A study of law is insufficient without a study of civil rights law, particularly at a public institution, including advocacy and litigation on behalf of those most vulnerable.

I was fortunate to receive several offers from prestigious schools around the country when I left civil service with the federal government to pursue a law degree. I chose UNC in part because of the Center for Civil Rights, which serves as an example of our school's commitment to a critical analysis of our legal system. I hope you will consider carefully the ramifications of restricting the Center's important contributions to UNC and to our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jamey Lowdermilk
UNC School of Law
Class of 2017

Name: Sabrina Valenti

Date: 5/10/2017 14:19

Comments:

As someone who has considered going into the legal field and has a partner who works in civil rights litigation, I am appalled and disheartened by the reports that the Board of Governors is considering altering the structure of the Center for Civil Rights. I strongly discourage this decision as I know myself, and thousands of other aspiring civil rights attorneys across this country, will decide to take our talents to schools that are not UNC Chapel Hill because of this decision and the message it sends. The closure of the Center would send the message that the UNC system does not care about providing valuable legal experience, and also sets the precedent that they are willing to stifle academic freedom for a political agenda. If this passes UNC will be forfeiting legal talent and this decision is to blame.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Munashe Magarira

Date: 5/10/2017 14:21

Comments:

The UNC Center for Rights performs integral work on behalf of underserved communities. The Center's representation benefits taxpayers and furthers the school's educational mission by providing law school students the opportunity to obtain and develop practical legal skills. I would ask that the Board reject a proposal that would prevent the Center from litigating in the future.

Name: Tim Stallmann

Date: 5/10/2017 14:22

Comments:

As an alumnus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I have long been proud of its strong tradition of doing academic work which is rooted in and engaged with North Carolina. The Center for Civil Rights is a star exemplar of that tradition. I strongly urge the Board to support and expand CCR's work rather than hampering it by banning participation in ongoing litigation!

Name: Maria Savasta-Kennedy

Date: 5/10/2017 14:28

Comments:

I am a Clinical Professor of Law and the Director of the Externship Program at UNC School of Law. The Externship Program places students with a variety of judges, government entities, public interest organizations and corporate counsel for the purpose of developing our students' lawyering skills and professional identity. CCR is one of our partner sites, and students routinely receive academic credit for externing there. It is my job to focus on developing our students' lawyering skills and professional training, and I am careful to work only with those sites providing mentoring and training worthy of academic credit. CCR provides this on all fronts. Notably, CCR is one of the few sites which we allow to provide 6 academic credits as opposed to usual 3 credits, and it is the only such site focusing on civil rights. Taking away CCR's ability to litigate would directly undercut not only the protection of our citizen's civil rights, but would severely limit the experience available to students who extern there. CCR support of litigation against government entities should not be dispositive as students routinely receive academic credit for externing with a number of our externship sites which also support litigation against government entities.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Aaron Davison

Date: 5/10/2017 14:29

Comments:

The partisan vendetta of the Board of Governors is absolutely incompatible with the goals of those fighting to protect the civil rights of the citizens of North Carolina at the UNC Center for Civil Rights. They do not belong. Your "wanna-be," politically correct justifications for removing the center's presence in the courtroom fool no one. End this! Let us fully return to the great work we have begun and will continue to do for North Carolina.

Name: Kayla Guthrie

Date: 5/10/2017 14:39

Comments:

I am writing today as a resident of North Carolina concerned that the Center for Civil Rights is under threat by the proposal written by Member Steven B. Long that attempts to strip the Center of some of its most important abilities. As someone considering law school, I will not be attending UNC Chapel Hill if the Center is shut down. This decision will not only cause a hemorrhage of talent, but likely hurt UNC's standing with the American Bar Association. If the Board of Governors is intent on decreasing the ranking, the reputation, the enthusiasm, and the overall standing of both this law school and this system, then this proposal would make sense. Otherwise the Board of Governors must reject the proposal regarding the Center for Civil Rights and allow it to continue its important litigation work.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Bartina Edwards

Date: 5/10/2017 14:47

Comments:

As a practicing attorney in the state of North Carolina, I oppose the proposed policy change(s) to Section 400.5[R] of the UNC Policy Manual related to Clinics/Institutes.

As a law student, I was a member of the law review and a clinical program participant. I left NCCU as a cum laude graduate having more than a Juris Doctor, but with a practice-ready legal education. I advocate on behalf of citizens and appear before state and federal courts. I am active in my community, and sit on various councils and boards, including higher education boards. This proposed change would have a sweeping and unintended detrimental effect on law students, the affected law schools and the communities they serve. I ask that you not implement this proposed rule change.

A clinical legal education offers students theoretical legal concepts coupled with practical skills. Renowned law schools, Northwestern and Harvard, offer clinical programs. Clinics add diversity, perspective, relevancy, relational ability and an overall experiential component beyond that of a textbook. They allow for the broader community to have access to justice. For those who advance the argument that clinics are outside the scope of the mission of a law school, nothing could be further from the truth. The ABA has endorsed "real-life" experiences as part of a law school education and clinics act to attract law students and potential employers to law schools. Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity to offer comments.

Name: Danielle Gartner

Date: 5/10/2017 14:48

Comments:

I am a student of the Gillings School of Global Public Health (SPH) at UNC-Chapel Hill. The mission of the SPH is "to improve public health, promote individual well-being and eliminate health inequities across North Carolina and around the world." A core way in which we fulfill our mission is by generating research that informs policy or intervention. Litigation and legal advocacy are two ways in which public health research is translated into the actions that improve the public's health. The Center for Civil Rights has utilized research conducted by investigators at the SPH to initiate positive change for North Carolina's residents. This critical collaboration between SPH and the Center for Civil Rights enables us to fulfill our mission through advancement of public health for marginalized communities who might have no other means, besides litigation, to seek justice or to advocate for their health. Limiting the litigation-related work of the Center for Civil Rights, or any other center or institution in the UNC system, would be a grave mistake and will only result in further marginalization of several of NC's historically neglected communities. On a more personal note, those BOG members that proposed this plan should be greatly ashamed of their actions. It is clear that this move was motivated by the personal interests of a few BOG members and not for the good of the UNC system, its students, or the citizens of NC.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Madelyn Percy

Date: 5/10/2017 14:50

Comments:

I represent the graduate and professional student body at UNC as the GPSF President. I want to express my strong support for Carolina's Center for Civil Rights, and its mission of educating future attorneys to be engaged, powerful advocates for civil rights across our great state, and the rest of the country. As a top-tier law school, resources like the Center for Civil Rights not only helps us attract top talent, but also prepares our graduates to navigate the realities of legal complexities that prevent some of our country's most disadvantaged communities from receiving fair treatment. Carolina's Center for Civil Rights has over 15 years of experience educating early-career lawyers in how to engage with communities to encourage self-advocacy, how to file "friend of the court" briefs on topics that range from housing disparities to access to education, how to investigate discriminatory practices so that justice is served for both sides, and even sometimes litigation. Preventing units like Carolina's Center for Civil Rights from training its students for real world situations is anathema to the primary mission of the law school, and would undoubtedly have repercussions for the future education of generations of lawyers to matriculate from UNC. Thank you.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Laura Holley

Date: 5/10/2017 14:51

Comments:

Why do you seek to make the already vulnerable even more vulnerable by further empowering the already powerful?

One cited concern: "Govt lawyers" being so litigious. The Ctr's lawyers are not paid by the govt/taxpayers. Contrast this with the nearly \$11 million that the NC GOP has paid in lawyer fees in the last five years, in vain attempts to defend their overreach efforts; where's the regard for saving taxpayer monies then?

Doesn't the conservative ethic point to not the Govt but to community institutions, such as churches, nonprofits, and yes this Center, to step in and care for the disenfranchised? (Civitas: promoting "citizen-based, free-market solutions to problems facing North Carolinians.") If you block government aid efforts (legal aid funding) AND community institutional assistance, then are you not abandoning your stated principle of faith? Or is yours a faith that only smiles down on the systemically advantaged, without any mercy shown to those who are unprettilly poor or who happen to be darker complexioned than you? Is yours a faith grounded in the easy willingness to sacrifice justice and human decency for a consolidated power-trip and abject greed? What exactly IS your end goal?

I vehemently oppose barring the UNC Center for Civil Rights from its legal representation function. This proposal is blantly unethical. I ask you to do the right thing. Please support me, the Center, and the people of North Carolina. Thank you.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Elizabeth Adkins

Date: 5/10/2017 14:55

Comments:

My name is Elizabeth Adkins and I am the Student Body President at UNC Chapel Hill. I am speaking here today on behalf of the student body to show my support for the UNC Center for Civil Rights. The UNC Center for Civil Rights is a critical part of our University. As a center of education, the Center for Civil Rights has given hundreds of future attorneys the experience to engage in pro-bono civil rights litigation and helped prepare them for the serious and important work they will do after their graduation. Keeping it open allows us to preserve this wonderful educational opportunity that prepares future litigators for the real work they will be doing. Additionally, I am concerned that making substantive policy changes to the functions of centers and institutions across our system will open the door for further changes and thus create the possibility that academic freedom could, at some point, be inhibited. I know that is not what UNC Chapel Hill stands for or the Board of Governors stands for. If we strip the center of a lot of its most fundamental powers, we threaten our reputation as a University, cost our students opportunities, and deny ourselves the ability to continue the public service that is such a critical part of this system. I appreciate you all taking the time for this public comment session today, and I welcome any further questions if any of the board has them.

Name: Elizabeth McClure

Date: 5/10/2017 14:57

Comments:

As a student at the Gillings Global School of Public Health, I believe this proposal hinders my experiential learning opportunities and directly contradicts the missions of our school.

Name: Tim Wilson

Date: 5/10/2017 15:00

Comments:

I am director, patents at SAS Institute Inc. SAS has provided support to the IP Law Institute at NC Central Law School because of its experiential learning opportunities through the filing of challenges to the validity of patents at the USPTO. I believe that it is important to provide young attorneys with practical experience prior to graduating law school. The program at the Institute is well positioned to provide their students with world class experience leading to better job opportunities in the marketplace. This program will lead to NCCU being considered a leader in Intellectual Property Law education and will benefit the business community in the Triangle. Please maintain this program.

Tim Wilson

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Madelyn Percy

Date: 5/10/2017 15:06

Comments:

I represent the graduate and professional student body at UNC as the GPSF President. I want to express my strong support for Carolina's Center for Civil Rights, and its mission of educating future attorneys to be engaged, powerful advocates for civil rights across our great state, and the rest of the country. As a top-tier law school, resources like the Center for Civil Rights not only helps us attract top talent, but also prepares our graduates to navigate the realities of legal complexities that prevent some of our country's most disadvantaged communities from receiving fair treatment. Carolina's Center for Civil Rights has over 15 years of experience educating early-career lawyers in how to engage with communities to encourage self-advocacy, how to file "friend of the court" briefs on topics that range from housing disparities to access to education, how to investigate discriminatory practices so that justice is served for both sides, and even sometimes litigation. Preventing units like Carolina's Center for Civil Rights from training its students for real world situations is anathema to the primary mission of the law school, and would undoubtedly have repercussions for the future education of generations of lawyers to matriculate from UNC. Thank you.

Name: Heather Zunguze

Date: 5/10/2017 15:53

Comments:

Please do not make defending civil rights, including constitutional rights, especially for low-income and marginalized peoples a partisan issue! Everyone should be able to agree that justice is better served when all people have access to advocacy and council. It is already a sad commentary on our so-called justice system that it takes pro-bono work, like that which we are debating here, to protect so many of the most vulnerable in our communities. Should we not be teaching in our law schools that justice should apply to all?! If you end this practice, then you are sending a dangerous message that justice is a partisan issue. Eventually, as Dr. King reminded us, the arc of history always bends towards justice, so on which side of history will your vote fall? Please side with the "liberty and justice for all," to which you purport to pledge allegiance; because if your allegiance is merely to the flag and to defending the more fair and even rule of law, then you have no business in governing our law schools. Please do not make NC yet another laughing stock within the civilized world!

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Kathryn Welch

Date: 5/10/2017 15:53

Comments:

It is one of the highest callings of lawyers and law students to serve the poor among us. The Board should vigorously support the Center for Civil Rights in the Law School. To do otherwise, brings shame on our state, the GA and the Board of Governors.

Name: Senator Angela Bryant

Date: 5/10/2017 18:24

Comments:

As a state senator- I am writing to ask that you not prohibit the UNC Center for Civil Rights from advocating for and litigating on behalf of clients. This center founded by the country's most esteemed civil rights lawyer, Julius Chambers, is carrying out an educational mission of the university to train students how to do civil rights lawyering in the legacy of Chambers. Even if you disagree with the civil rights tradition of fighting discrimination, you cannot contend that training lawyers to practice that area of the law is not a part of the mission of UNC when it graduated the foremost practitioner of civil rights law who also served the as one of its chancellors. The Center is a law school clinic that operates according to ABA standards providing students hands-on experience with representing civil rights clients. As a state senator, on several occasions the Center has represented clients that I referred to them who were being treated unfairly by government entities who were using their tax-paid attorneys against the interests of these clients. The availability of the center to level the playing field for these citizens in terms of tax-paid/foundation and donation paid resources - helped in all these instances to move the issue forward in terms of community and legislative solutions, and most importantly, avoided community unrest, and hopelessness. These cases involved an improper annexation, a donut hole excluded community and a hopelessly segregated school system.

Comments Received through the Website

Name: Taiyyaba Qureshi

Date: 5/10/2017 19:11

Comments:

Respected Board Members: When I graduated from UNC-CH in 2007, I had several options for my legal education. The only one I seriously considered was UNC-Law, and that primarily because of the UNC CCR. The work of that Center, including its litigation on behalf of NC citizens, made me proud of my university and gave me a real choice, unique in the nation, for the legal education I wanted. During law school, I interned for the Center and did several pro bono projects; I always felt that I was doing real and meaningful legal work for our clients. When I finally became the Education Attorney-Fellow for the Center in 2011, I was proud to continue the Center's legacy of training the next generation of lawyers. The Center abounds with opportunities for research and direct client interaction, as do the clinics. But more than that, the Center is the only in-house opportunity at UNC Law by which students can get real experience in multi-party, large scale, complex litigation at the local and federal level. This enables the Center's interns and pro bono students to be relevant and hit the ground running in any field of law.

I urge you to maintain the Center's advocacy and direct representation of individuals and groups. This is essential not only for the sake of equal justice, but for making UNC Law a modern and effective law school which meets the needs of its students.

Name: Camilla Cover

Date: 5/11/2017 01:51

Comments:

The public service rendered is part of the statement of who we are as North Carolinians. We cannot afford to lose this asset and the contributions it makes to our larger community. We, as a community, do not want to dissolve into dry bones. Do no harm to this institution.

Name: Tom High

Date: 5/11/2017 06:21

Comments:

I support the Center for Civil Rights because I support equal justice, and believe that every citizen deserves the ability to have his/her voice heard in our democracy and its justice system. This is about fairness, not politics. Do your job as member of the BoG, not because of ideology, but with a sense of the mission of this university system being one of service for all of the citizens of the state of North Carolina.