

NAACP Issue Travel Ban on Florida in Response to Governor's 'Hostility' toward Minorities



By Stacy M. Brown
 NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
 @StacyBrownMedia



(NNPA) - The NAACP Board of Directors has issued a formal travel advisory for the state of Florida.

According to a news release from the nation's oldest civil rights organization, the travel advisory comes in direct response to Gov. Ron DeSantis' "aggressive attempts to erase Black history and to restrict diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in Florida schools."

The formal travel notice states, "Florida is openly hostile toward African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals."

"Before traveling to Florida, please understand that the state of Florida devalues and marginalizes the contributions of, and the challenges faced by African Americans and other communities of color."

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson said he wanted the message to resonate.

"Let me be clear – failing to teach an accurate representation of the horrors and inequalities that Black Americans have faced and continue to face is a disservice to students and a dereliction of duty to all," Johnson stated.

"Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, the state of Florida has become hos-

tile to Black Americans and in direct conflict with the democratic ideals that our union was founded upon," he continued.

"He should know that democracy will prevail because its defenders are prepared to stand up and fight. We're not backing down, and we encourage our allies to join us in the battle for the soul of our nation."

According to the release, the travel advisory was initially proposed to the Board of Directors by NAACP's Florida State Conference.

NAACP's collective consideration of the advisory is a result from unrelenting attacks on fundamental freedoms from the Governor and his legislative body, the organization asserted.

Following DeSantis' ordering the state to restrict students' access to AP African American studies course in March, the NAACP distributed 10,000 books to 25 predominantly Black communities across the state in collaboration with the American Federation of Teachers' Reading Opens the World program.

Most of the books donated were titles banned under the state's increasingly restrictive laws.

The NAACP vowed to continue to encourage local branches and youth councils to start community libraries to ensure access to representative literature.

The organization said in the release that it has encouraged all Florida residents to join the effort to defeat the "regressive policies of this Governor and this state legislature."

"Once again, hate-inspired state leaders have chosen to put politics over people. Gov. Ron DeSantis and the state of Florida have engaged in a blatant war against principles of diversity and inclusion and rejected our shared identities to appeal to a dangerous, extremist minority," said Chair of the NAACP Board of Directors, Leon Russell.

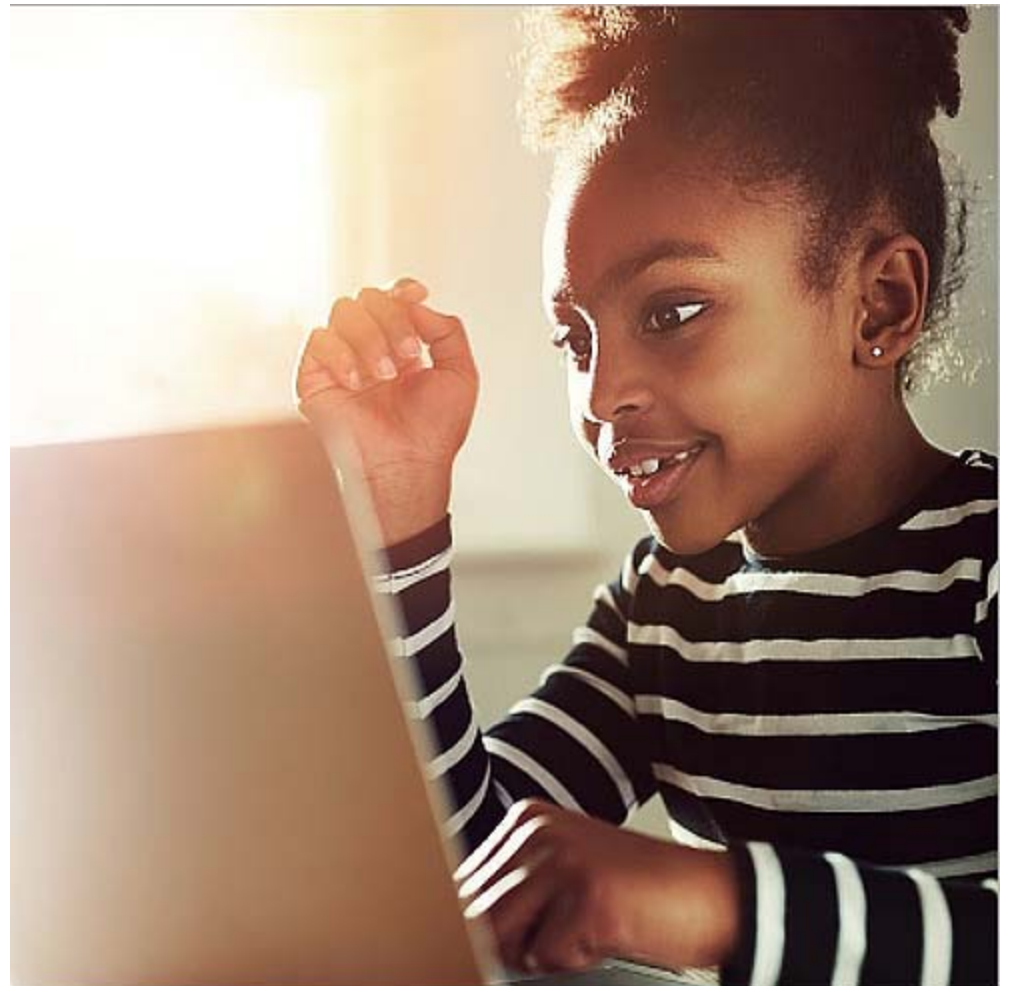
"We will not allow our rights and history to be held hostage for political grandstanding," Russell stated.

"The NAACP proudly fights against the malicious attacks in Florida, against Black Americans. I encourage my fellow Floridians to join in this fight to protect ourselves and our democracy."

The NAACP asked that interested residents and supporters visit www.naacp.org for additional information and updates.

Social Media and Youth Mental Health

by Mariam Sunny in Bengaluru; Editing by Nancy Lapid and Bill Berkrot



(Reuters) - Social media can profoundly harm the mental health of youth, particularly adolescent girls, the U.S. Surgeon General warned in an advisory on Tuesday, and he called for safeguards from tech companies for children who are at critical stages of brain development.

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said that while social media offers some benefits, there are "ample indicators that social media could also harm children's well-being."

"We are in the middle of a national youth mental health crisis, and I am concerned that social media is an important driver of that crisis - one that we must urgently address," Murthy said.

Social media use may cause and perpetuate body image issues, affect eating behaviors and sleep quality, and lead to social comparison and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls, the advisory said, citing responses from a survey

conducted among adolescents.

Adolescents who spend more than three hours per day on social media face double the risk of experiencing poor mental health outcomes, such as symptoms of depression and anxiety, according to the advisory.

Most adolescents say social media helps them feel more accepted, more supported during tough times, more connected to their friends, and more creative, the advisory also said.

It said policymakers should strengthen safety standards in ways that enhance those benefits for children of all ages, while noting that inappropriate and harmful content continues to be easily and widely accessible to children.

Tech companies should adhere to age limits to control access to social media platforms, and be transparent about data regarding the impact of their products on children, the advisory urges.

Algorithms and platform design should seek to maximize the potential benefits of social media instead of features designed to make users spend more time on them, it said.

"The first principle of healthcare is to do no harm - that's the same standard we need to start holding social media platforms to," said Saul Levin, CEO of the American Psychiatric Association.

The report includes suggestions for what parents, tech companies, as well as children and adolescents, can do to avoid dangerous pitfalls and make the social media experience more positive. They include creation of a family media plan, encouraging of in-person friendships, talking to children about how they spend their time online, and encouraging them to seek help should they need it.

It included a reminder of the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline "if you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis."



Monaco Grand Prix Monaco Street Circuit May 28, 9 a.m. ET

Check your local listings for television broadcast

Texas Longhorns Schedule 2023



Regular Season

DATE

Sat, Sep 2	vs	Rice
Sat, Sep 9	@	Alabama
Sat, Sep 16	vs	Wyoming
Sat, Sep 23	@	Baylor
Sat, Sep 30	vs	Kansas
Sat, Oct 7	vs	Oklahoma *
Sat, Oct 21	@	Houston
Sat, Oct 28	vs	BYU
Sat, Nov 4	vs	Kansas State
Sat, Nov 11	@	TCU
Sat, Nov 18	@	Iowa State
Fri, Nov 24	vs	Texas Tech

* Game played at neutral location