



February 6, 2023

Dr. Paul Ortiz
Director, Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
Professor of History
University of Florida
President, United Faculty of Florida-UF (FEA/NEA/AFT/AFL-CIO)

Dear Paul,

I write to you to express my solidarity with your struggle in the state of Florida against the current occupant of the governor's mansion in your state. You and your colleagues should know that you have many friends and supporters around the country who stand firmly with you in these challenging times.

As a filmmaker and educator involved in presenting long erased stories about the Latino community, I am outraged by the hypocrisy and ignorance spewing from your governor. He is determined to distract attention from a governorship concerned primarily with the ruling elite, discounting critical issues facing everyday Floridians like healthcare, living wages, voting rights, affordable housing, public transportation, and a secure climate.

Rather than bring any sunshine to his state, his antics are designed to keep residents in the perpetual darkness of ignorance and disinformation. Millions of residents in the Sunshine state face myriad problems yet he is determined to undermine free speech, decimate unions, violate individual privacy, attack trans and gay youth, and suppress the accurate history and authentic experiences of historically marginalized groups, particularly LGBTQ and Black communities.

We see the dystopian actions of your governor for what they are – shameful political tactics aimed at undermining productive civic dialogue and raising his profile among a shrinking conservative base.

Please know that I join with tens of thousands of educators and concerned individuals around the country in condemning these pernicious attacks on public education and civic engagement.

In solidarity,

Dr. Paul Espinosa
President, Espinosa Productions
Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University, School of Transborder Studies