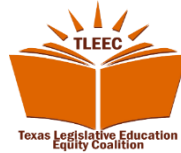
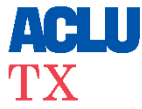


EVERY TEXAN



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Civil Rights Organizations Condemn Passage of Texas Bill to Halt DEI Offices and Policies in Public Universities and Colleges

Austin, Texas – The Texas House of Representatives voted today to pass Senate Bill 17 (S.B. 17), a bill that prohibits diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) offices and policies at public colleges and universities in the state. The measure forbids faculty, students, and staff from receiving critical training and services that help to prevent potentially discriminatory action that could disadvantage students who come from historically marginalized backgrounds.

S.B. 17 expands on Senate Bill 3, the K-12 Texas anti-truth law passed in 2021, by targeting public colleges and universities and is the latest legislation to target inclusive public education in Texas.

A group of civil rights and education advocacy organizations expressed grave concerns about the passage of S.B. 17, and issued the following statement:

“We condemn the Texas House of Representative’s passage of S.B. 17. The implementation of this misguided measure would be devastating for generations of Texans from all backgrounds. If enacted, S.B. 17 will undermine the ability of educators and administrators to create a diverse and welcoming campus and threaten the quality of higher education in Texas as a whole. This legislation threatens to eliminate critical tools still needed to advance educational equity and will negatively impact student outcomes, such as retention and graduation rates for Black students, Latinx students and students from other underrepresented communities.

DEI offices and policies are key tools to mitigate and address ongoing racial and gender inequalities that will flourish without intentional measures to create inclusive educational environments. DEI initiatives are essential to supporting campus cultures wherein all students, faculty, and staff feel welcome. All students in Texas are entitled to a learning environment in which they can thrive. We will continue to advocate for faculty, staff, and students to fully participate in an equitable and inclusive education.”

This statement was signed by the following organizations:

- NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF)
- Ethnic Studies Network of Texas Core Team

- Every Texan
- Texas Freedom Network
- ACLU of Texas
- Texas Legislative Education Equity Coalition (TLEEC)
- Texas Students for DEI
- American Association of University Professors – Texas (AAUP-Texas)
- Equality Federation – Texas
- Texas Faculty Association (TFA)