

what is happening with **TENURE** and anti-tenure legislation?

1. WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The Texas Lieutenant Governor has proposed a bill, SB18, designed to abolish tenure in public institutions of higher education. Tenure is a standard characteristic of university-level research and teaching jobs, **conferring protection for the most important parts of their work:** conducting research among fellow experts, and passing on that research in the form of classroom instruction, as well as exercising freedom of expression in the public sphere. **Tenure is a central feature of a university committed to academic freedom,** and it empowers researchers to challenge orthodoxies, revise conventional knowledge, and to advance a community of thought. It ensures that knowledge will not be subordinated to the ideologies or whims of those with power.

2. WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

FINANCIAL

Without tenure, a key condition for intellectual risk-taking, researchers will seek employment at institutions with better intellectual protection. Major foundations will direct their funding elsewhere.

Without tenure, institutions like the University of Texas turn their backs on a commitment to being the starting point for what “changes the world.”

EDUCATIONAL

Without protection to share with their students the most advanced knowledge affirmed by a community of researchers, teachers will be disempowered to keep Texas students up to pace with their peers at private institutions and public institutions in other states across the country. A civic population that is not educated by tenured researchers is **educationally disadvantaged relative to the rest of the country.**

INTELLECTUAL

A university without tenure is a university that actively discourages intellectual risks. Withdrawing from the structures necessary for pursuing knowledge, **an institution without tenure is a factory for indoctrination.**

DISCRIMINATORY

Without tenure, the undertaking of controversial research exposes researchers to ideological discrimination, and heightens the impact of other existing discriminations, like race, gender, disability, etc. Such complex phenomena are worthy of intellectual attention and research. Tenure is one significant way that an institution demonstrates its commitment to understanding the world and creating a better one.