

Dear AAUP Members,

Please join National AAUP President Irene Mulvey to fight against [SB 17](#)! She'll be testifying at the [Senate Higher Education Subcommittee](#) hearing on Thursday. Possible actions are given after the description of SB 17 and a related House budget rider.

- **Senate:** [SB 17](#) eliminates all DEI practices, programs and offices. Penalties include dismissal, regardless of tenure status, and dismissed faculty cannot be hired for five years. Anyone can report an infraction to the Attorney General. Prohibits students, staff, and faculty from being on President search committees. Board of Regents will micromanage the core curriculum and all faculty and administrative hiring. Institutions take oath of political neutrality.
- **House:** Also on Thursday, the full House will be debating [House Budget Rider 62](#) to prohibit DEI practices in higher education.

Please take the following actions:

Send this e-mail message from a personal account to other personal accounts to reach a wide swath of people who may act on behalf of higher education-- faculty, students, alumni, parents, and community and business leaders. We need more people from every group to take action. You could post on Facebook, Tweet it, text it, etc.

Sign the Texas AAUP/AFT campaign to [Defend Tenure, DEI, and Academic Freedom](#) to send a letter to your Senate and House Reps to oppose Texas bills to limit academic freedom, ban DEI practices, and eliminate tenure. Then, use the Impactive App with campaign code 851761 to invite friends, family, and colleagues to sign the campaign.

Post objections to [SB 17](#) to the [Senate Higher Ed Subcommittee](#) members by clicking on each picture and then clicking E-mail Your Senator or calling their office. For your message, you can copy and paste text from the documents listed under **Bill Analysis** below.

Visit the local office for your Senate and House Rep or their office in the State Capitol. Ask to talk with the staff person who handles higher education issues. Staffers are very professional and want to hear from the public. I have found staffers to be enjoyable to work with, even when the Legislator holds very different views from mine on an issue.

Testify against [SB 17](#)-- we really need volunteers! This is the most effective action.

- See the [infographic on testifying at the Texas Legislature](#)
- Arrive any time during the hearing which will go from 9am to late into the evening on Thursday, April 6th -- you'll have lots of company from AAUP members!
- Tell your story in two minutes as to why DEI is important to you -- see **Bill Analysis** info below and contact me at halfoning@juno.com if you'd like to receive feedback
- See Thursday's two-minute testimonies against anti-tenure [SB 18](#) by AAUP Members [Brian Evans](#) (YouTube) as well as Andrea Gore (39:21), Derek Chiou (55:48) and Karma Chavez (1:15:28) on the [part II of the hearing recording](#)

Here's information that can help you in taking action:

Bill Analysis. Please see

- AAUP & AFT [Analysis of Texas SB 16, 17 & 18](#)
- Banning DEI: [one-page white paper](#) and [four-page talking points](#)
- *Op-Ed*: Christine Julien, "[DEI: What it is and why it matters in engineering](#)", *Dallas Morning News*, April 1, 2023.

Best,
Brian

Brian L. Evans, PhD | He/His/Him
Member, [American Association of University Professors](#), AFT, AFL-CIO
Vice President, [Texas AAUP Conference](#)

Speaking for myself as a private individual
Not representing any group, institution, or organization