

April 22, 2023

Dear Colleague,

We have to move fast!

As early as May 1, the House Higher Education Committee will begin hearing SB 18 to eliminate tenure, SB 17 to ban DEI programs, and SB 16 to limit academic freedom, now that the Senate has passed them. The [House Higher Education Committee](#) publishes their agenda on the Wednesday or Thursday before their weekly Monday 10am meetings. Here's a [brief analysis of SB 16, 17 and 18](#) and what they could mean for the future of higher ed. Legislative session ends May 29.

### **Actions to Take if You Can Be in Austin**

If you are interested testifying or visiting offices, contact Brian Evans [halftoning@juno.com](mailto:halftoning@juno.com) or Karma Chavez [karmachavez@gmail.com](mailto:karmachavez@gmail.com). We'll arrange training and support.

- Testify at [House Higher Education Committee](#) hearings on Mondays at 10am starting May 1. Having 200 people to testify would be a commanding way to show opposition! We'll be available to work together ahead of time and support each other during the day of testimony. Testimonies are limited to 3 minutes. Here's a [guide for testifying](#). *This is our biggest need.*
- Visit Legislative Offices at the Capitol. Among our four cooperating statewide advocacy organizations, we can arrange for someone to be at the State Capitol to guide you.

**In-Person and Virtual Rally on Wednesday, May 3.** Please RSVP for [Freedom to Learn Texas Day of Action](#) by April 28. You can either join in person at the State Capitol to rally at 2pm and then visit Legislative Offices, or participate remotely by calling Legislative Offices using pages 1-2 of the [Freedom to Learn Texas Day of Action](#).

### **Actions People Can Take Wherever They Are**

- Follow our [Bill Tracker](#), and @TexasAaup and @aaup\_utAustin on Twitter, for updates.
- Send information to others from non-State accounts including amplifying tweets and posts – you can send this message as is or [as a PDF file](#).
- [Call the staff who are handling Higher Ed issues](#) for House reps during business hours
- Visit the local district offices for your House and Senate Reps – see [who represents me](#)
- Sign petitions [Stop Elimination of Tenure](#) and [Defend Tenure, DEI, and Academic Freedom](#)

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