



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: Criminal Justice, Health & Human Services, Natural Resources & Economic Development, Nominations and Transportation

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Borris L. Miles Statement on the University of Houston Removing DEI from Hiring Practices

"I have always said our diversity is one of the greatest strengths of Texas. The University of Houston (UH) is proof of that with its rising national reputation and a diverse community of students, faculty and administration from all backgrounds and more than 130 countries. It is for this reason that it was extremely disappointing to learn that UH caved to political pressure and will be removing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) from its hiring practices.

"In the university's own statement, the university says it '...embraces diversity and understands that it is our responsibility to foster an open, welcoming environment where students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds can collaboratively learn, work and serve.' However, how can you truly foster this environment if you remove DEI from the hiring of the faculty and staff who would teach our young minds? The faculty and staff should continue to reflect the diversity of the Houston region and the university's student body.

"Removing diversity in hiring sends a terrible message that will hurt UH from attracting the culturally rich diverse workforce that helped it become a rising Tier 1 research institution. This is yet another act of political theater pushed by the state's leadership on our agencies and universities that will do nothing but hurt our state."

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