



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

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Senator César J. Blanco Votes Against Legislation to Ban Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Offices and Practices in Higher Education

Austin, Texas – Today, the Texas Senate approved Senate Bill 17, which would ban Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Offices and practices at higher education institutions. Senator Blanco voted against the bill.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

"Higher education institutions have a long history of discrimination against people of color and women. Although times are better, universities are still failing to ensure opportunities in higher education are open to everyone.

"According to [UT Austin's Hispanic Equity Report](#), inequities still plague Latinos and African Americans in faculty and leadership representation, salary, disparities, and tenure/tenure track promotions. Doing away with DEI practices and policies and relying on color-blind and sex-blind hiring processes will leave minorities behind. UT has demonstrated that neutral policies, rules, practices, and systems of management have produced disparate impacts on Hispanic faculty.

"Banning diversity, equity, and inclusion in Higher Education, will not only hurt minority faculty, but also minority students, and the future of our state."

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