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# SPEECH FIRST

## Speech First Partners with Goldwater Institute to Provide Model Legislation To Combat DEI In Classrooms

[Washington, D.C. \(April 3, 2023\)](#) – Speech First has developed [model policy](#) in partnership with the [Goldwater Institute](#) titled, the “Freedom from Indoctrination Act.” Students are shouting down speakers, rioting across campuses, reporting on each other constantly for petty offenses like “microaggressions”. Why are they behaving this way? Because colleges and universities are encouraging it through their policies and mandated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) trainings that push critical race and gender theory on students so they only look at one another through the lens of race and sex. Universities tell students they should be offended at every turn and that every offense is heinous and reportable.

This DEI programming continues to dominate college campuses nationwide, sewing hate and enmity amongst students. Jettisoning concepts like free speech, viewpoint diversity, and comradery. Speech First worked with the Goldwater Institute to draft new model legislation that extends protections from coercion for college students preventing universities from mandating DEI courses and these types of trainings in freshman orientations, while protecting the academic freedom faculty against DEI-related interference. Additionally, the model policy instructs students on free speech and the principles of our founding.

In 2022, [Speech First](#), a non-profit member organization committed to protecting freedom of speech on campus, found that over 90% of universities focus their freshman orientation programs on DEI related topics while only one third of universities mention free speech or viewpoint diversity even once. Speech First’s report “[Freshman Disorientation: How Colleges and Universities lay the Groundwork for Student Indoctrination](#)”, shows that students are seeped with woke, radical progressive ideology from the moment they step on campus. Universities are using these mandated training programs to stoke anger and hate amongst students, training them to be activists and to report everything they hear or see that is “offensive” or “bias”.

[Cherise Trump](#), Executive Director of Speech First, issued the following statement:

“We are very happy to partner with the Goldwater Institute again to develop [model legislation](#) that will accomplish and ensure students won’t be subjugated to the political aims of the DEI regime currently ruling our college campuses nationwide. University campuses should be places of higher learning, academic exploration, debate and civil discourse. Not centers of woke dogma that trains activists who feel justified using violence and destruction to reach their political aims . This model legislation would

ensure students and faculty will be protected from this type of coercion and intimidation currently dominating campuses. Furthermore, this model legislation will ensure that students receive educational resources on important principles that undergird American culture in free speech, the rule of law, and our constitutional republic, which sadly has been thrown to the wayside. States should be taking actions to protect speech on college campuses. It is in states' interests that their institutions of higher learning actually live up to the goal of "higher learning". The more students are encouraged to focus on petty squabbles and being offended by every word in the English dictionary, the more they miss out on intellectual growth. Let's make universities home once again to rigorous debate and civil discourse where students seek truth and expand their minds. This model legislation can serve as a vital tool in this battle against the DEI regime."

### **Background:**

#### [The Model Legislation:](#)

1. **Ensures that no student is forced to take university or college level courses promoting ideological activism** such as critical race theory (CRT) or "diversity, equity, and inclusion" (DEI) as a condition of obtaining a degree from a public university or community college. Such coursework will no longer be allowed to form the basis of general education requirements, supplant available programming in unrelated majors, or be infused into faculty course designs in an infringement of their academic freedom.
2. **Ensures that each public university or college bachelor's degree program provides student instruction in the founding principles of our constitutional republic**, with oversight from constitutionally principled scholars.
3. **Ensures that university sponsored freshman orientation programs affirm the principles of free speech and do not pressure students to engage in programming or exercises pertaining to DEI, CRT or identity politics.**

Together, these reforms will ensure that no student or faculty will ever again be forced to invest time or tuition payments subsidizing leftwing activist programming unrelated to their course of study. In place of radical DEI "studies" courses, students will receive instruction in the central pillars of America's constitutional framework, including the freedom of speech and federalism.

This new legislation would guarantee that incoming first-year students are no longer bombarded with radical progressive ideology the moment they set foot on campus.

Under the model legislation, academic departments focused on race and gender related studies may continue to operate, but only within the strict confines of those departments. Only students who actively opt into a degree in such fields will be required to take such courses to fulfill their degree requirements.

Critically, this model policy also does more than prohibit formally established DEI requirements in college degree programs; it also prohibits universities from using informal tactics to coerce students into DEI coursework or freshman orientation sessions. This includes, for example, listing required courses in such a way where students have no choice but to take a DEI-encumbered class for their degree. Meaning STEM students get to focus on real scientific research while not having to dwell on how the scientific method is racist.

At the same time, faculty will be protected from DEI driven department protocols: Under the model legislation, for instance, faculty will never be allowed to be pressured to alter their curricula or reading lists to meet race or gender-based quotas. Faculty will instead be free to assign works based on their intellectual contribution, not a checklist of demographic characteristics.

Public, state-operated colleges and universities have no business forcing students or faculty to subsidize leftwing ideologies with their time or talent. Rather, these institutions must return to their foundational missions and ensure an appreciation for the central pillars of rigorous academic inquiry. The Freedom from Indoctrination Act will empower lawmakers to help them do just that.

To schedule an engagement with Speech First, please contact Michael Hensley at [michael@athospr.com](mailto:michael@athospr.com) and [info@athospr.com](mailto:info@athospr.com).

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