Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

As a parent of a college-age child, I want to offer my strong support for SB 2247. My husband and I both graduated from NDSU, and yet we both actively discouraged our daughter from applying there to study psychology because we are well-aware of what most universities have become: indoctrination centers that actively proselytize students into a Marxist worldview. While our daughter attended Minot State University, one of her professors gifted her a book entitled, *Why Marx Was Right*. Our daughter has decided to pursue alternatives for her future other than college, and we are honestly relieved which comes as a surprise to us because we always hoped our kids would follow in our footsteps and pursue a college degree.

There is no need to rely on anecdotes to prove that this indoctrination is happening. The proof is the existence and ubiquitousness of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs in higher education. DEI pushes divisive and illiberal concepts and is directly leading to America's downfall. It is poisoning the minds of our youth and creating professionals whose postmodern ideology undermines their competence and their ability to discern objective truth. This will have disastrous implications for our society. A few examples include:

- Medical student graduates from both Minnesota and Columbia Universities recently recited an altered version of the Hippocratic oath that injected elements of Critical Race Theory. This new allegiance to Marxist ideology has real-world implications for medical ethics and excellence. An example: the state of NY gave preferential treatment for covid based on race, stating " [race] should be considered a risk factor, as longstanding *systemic health and social inequities* have contributed to an increased risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19."

- Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, an accreditor for 900 university business schools, is advocating to "decolonize the business school curriculum".

- United Airlines, presumably run by woke, college-educated professionals, is choosing superficial demographics over merit, while the FAA lowers standards for airline traffic controllers to favor diversity. Neither bode well for the future of airline safety.

I recently saw a sign on a door at Minot State University that said, “This is a safe-space. Hateful speech, racism, transphobia, xenophobia, and misogyny will not be tolerated.” DEI defines those concepts through the lens of Critical Social Justice Ideology which is a specific worldview that is incompatible with many other worldviews. DEI is not about fostering a kind and inclusive environment. Actually, it’s just the opposite. It produces racism and hatred as outlined in this short clip.

DEI statements function as a political litmus test that can be used to reward and to punish. DEI’s underlying Marxist worldview has a chilling effect on the free exchange of ideas that is not only contributing to the dumbing down of every area of study, but is leading to the discrimination and intimidation of professors and students. Watch what happened to a professor after he shared his opinion on his university’s DEI-influenced discriminatory practices.

As American universities like the University of ND take the time and money to promote gender ideology, our Chinese academic counterparts are surpassing our research output and knowledge. This is happening because, unlike in the United States, Chinese universities still prioritize meritocracy. Let's join Florida in leading the effort to weaken the political and ideological capture of our universities. Let's return to favoring excellence over racial and gender quotas within academic and professional settings. And let's ensure that North Dakota's universities encourage a marketplace of diverse ideas, freedom of speech, and rigorous intellectual pursuits. I respectfully urge a 'do pass' recommendation on the incredibly important Senate Bill 2247.

Thank you so much for your consideration of my testimony.

Resources

Bad Medicine: How DEI Is Dismantling UNC's Medical School And Endangering Patients

National Library of Medicine: The Postmodern Assault on Science

UND makes it as easy as possible for students to fall prey to the destructive social contagion of transgenderism by providing a Gender Expression Closet.

DEI Doesn't Work—Taxpayers Shouldn't Pay for It

DEI University: DEI Bloat in the Academy

Abolish DEI Bureaucracies and Restore Colorblind Equality in Public Universities

The New Loyalty Oaths

When the Left Turns On Its Own