

DEI Legislator Tracker

“Arizona

Introduced Feb. 10 by Republican Sen. David Farnsworth, Senate Bill 1694 will cut state funding for any public college in Arizona that offers DEI coursework. If passed, Arizona educators would be prohibited from instruction that “relates contemporary American society” to:

- Critical theory
- Whiteness
- Systemic, institutional, and anti racism
- Microaggressions
- Systemic, implicit, and unconscious bias
- Intersectionality
- Gender identity
- Social justice
- Cultural competence
- Allyship
- Race based reparations, privilege, diversity, equity, or inclusion
- Gender based diversity, equity, or inclusion

SB 1694 is a reintroduction of a previous 2023 bill that aimed to prohibit schools from requiring an employee to engage with DEI programming, spending public funds on DEI programming or goods and services for a DEI program, or establishing and employing a DEI office. The bill ultimately died after its third reading in the House.

As of March 4, the new version of SB 1694 had passed in the Senate and was transferred to the House for its first reading.

Source:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/news/anti-dei-legislation-tracker/>

Note from Cowdrey:

While this topic has been incredibly difficult to navigate, as with all race based issues, I nearly fell out and was in tears as I worked to understand the complexities involved. I have always voted Democratic, true blue, and I have always been strongly opposed to racism against any race and supportive of immigrants. I still am.

However, I have come to see how some of these programs can harm White Americans. After my case research, witnessing rapid demographic change in a very short period of time, and personally experiencing microaggressions and severe forms of racism, including being threatened in a store, my position has changed.

My position has changed, I am now moderate conservative.

I have also witnessed political targeting including murder of white advocates. I believe whites deserve to speak on topics of racism just as any other race does. This should be a given, yet many of us are conditioned from a young age to ignore racism directed at whites. DEI initiatives do not help address this reality.

At the same time, whites are becoming a smaller share of the American population. I believe it is reasonable to advocate for fairness and equality for everyone without privileging certain groups over others, particularly in ways that are extreme or dismissive of the experiences of white Americans. Racism, hatred, and vitriol toward any group, including whites, should not go unchecked or be socially accepted.

My perspective has changed, and I have also reflected on the injustices I personally experienced as a white woman from individuals of many different races. I decided to stop burying the raw truth of my experiences, including feelings of suppression, targeting, vilification, hate speech, and having my voice dismissed or minimized. I am also a witness to robbery, exploitation, abuse, slavery, terrorism, and modern cold war, both personally and in my work as a caseworker.

Because of these experiences, I am “stepping away from the Democratic spheres.” I now believe that many voices in America are being suppressed or framed rather than truly heard. Those voices deserve space in public conversation, especially considering that white Americans once represented roughly 80 to 90 percent of the country’s population.

This is our country after all.

Many white Americans are struggling with the rapid changes occurring in the country and feel that their concerns are not being acknowledged. Some believe that their communities and institutions are changing quickly due to immigration and globalization, and that these changes are occurring without meaningful public discussion. While this certainly does not apply to all immigrants, many white people feel targeted or marginalized in places where whites are now a small minority, 1-2% for example.

My final position is that Americans deserve better. People should not feel forced, coerced, or silenced in discussions about race, identity, and national direction. When people feel vilified, displaced, or ignored, the result is cruelty, harm and suffering.

These concerns deserve to be discussed openly and honestly if the country hopes to move forward in a healthy and constructive way.