



A Resolution in Support of DEIA in Research

S-03-02-25H

Sponsor: Purdue University

Co-sponsor/s: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Indiana University Bloomington

1. *Whereas*, The inclusion of DEIA topics in American research ensures that research is representative of the national population and reflects the fundamental American values of freedom of speech and academic freedom, and any attempt to suppress these principles threatens the credibility and independence of academic institutions,
2. *Whereas*, The Trump Administration’s release of the “Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing” executive order has frightened many researchers due to its potential impact on funding¹ and also has implications for future censorship of DEIA-related words, such as “women” and “disability”,
3. *Whereas*, Censorship of research according to its content would negatively impact researcher’s ability to accurately describe, analyze, and address societal issues and would violate academic freedom and principles of free speech and expression,
4. *Whereas*, Such censorship undermines the integrity and quality of academic research by limiting the scope of inquiry and suppressing critical discussions necessary for scientific and social progress and creates barriers to addressing key societal challenges, including, accessibility, gender equality, and public health, which directly impact all Americans,
5. *Whereas*, the suppression of language in research sets a dangerous precedent for government interference in academic inquiry, threatening not only current studies but also future innovation, medical advancements, and policy-making.
6. *Whereas*, A researcher at Indiana University surveyed over 800 academics across the nation and found that, following the release of the executive orders impacting research 43% of respondents had considered leaving academia in the next 1-2 years following the release of the executive orders targeting research found, with DEI scholars significantly

¹ Rodriguez, Olga R., Terry Chea, and Makiya Seminera. 2025. “Trump’s DEI order leaves academic researchers fearful of political influence over grants.” AP News.

more likely to consider considering changing careers and/or making major changes to their research focus,²

7. *Whereas*, Discrepancies in research techniques involving exclusion of certain groups (ex. women) have resulted in global inequities in quality and length of life stemming from preliminary research deliberately excluding them,³
8. *Therefore, be it resolved*, The Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS), a collective voice of 810,000 students, formally condemns the censorship of language in academic research and calls upon the current administration to reverse this directive and for other government entities to formally condemn research censorship,
9. *Be it further resolved*, academic institutions retain the right to conduct research free from political interference, ensuring that studies remain comprehensive, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse realities of the American population,
10. *Be it further resolved*, ABTS urges universities to refrain from prematurely complying with proposed or pending legislation that seeks to weaken or eliminate mentions of DEIA in research before such laws are legally enacted and enforced, recognizing that preemptive action can lead institutions to unnecessarily exceed legal requirements, eroding essential student support services beyond what the law may ultimately mandate,
11. *Be it further resolved*, the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS) calls on all legislative and executive bodies to enact a permanent legislative solution for protecting the independence of academic research,
12. *Be it finally resolved*, ABTS commits to supporting affected researchers and publicly affirming their stance against censorship in academic research.

Vote: In Favor 13 Opposed 0 Abstentions 0

Therefore, the bill: **PASSES** FAILS

² The data reflected in this survey is not currently available to the public as it appears in an article currently awaiting publication.

³ Wood, Susan. 2024. "History of Women's Participation in Clinical Research." National Institutes of Health. <https://orwh.od.nih.gov/toolkit/recruitment/history>.