

Meeting Public Comments

Subcommittee meeting and times are as follows:

HF 2123

A bill for an act relating to state entities, including by modifying provisions related to prohibited diversity, equity, and inclusion offices and officers and to trainings and curricula regarding specific defined concepts provided by school districts.

Subcommittee members: Shipley-CH, Ramirez, Stone

~~**Date:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026~~

~~**Time:** 12:30 PM — 1:00 PM~~

~~**Location:** RM 102~~

Names and comments are public records. Remaining information is considered a confidential record.

Comments Submitted:

02-03-2026

Meredith Keelan [Retired Teacher]

Subcommittee members, This is an unnecessary bill that will only demonize the already marginalized. And I am not talking about LGBTQ community, but people that are disabled, mentally challenged, even kids from biracial families, divorced families, different religions. Yes, this is what DEI is not LGBTQ! As a 35 year retired teacher I can count the times a student would come to me needing someone to talk to about family problems and yes maybe even "Identity" concerns. This bill will have devastating effects on these conversations, but they WILL still happen. Your time would be better spent dealing with funding, lack of oversight on Voucher schools and homeschooling. Thank you, Meredith Keelan Van Vleck ISD Texas 35 years Retired

01-30-2026

Jennifer Proctor

Vote no. 1. Diversity We are all descended from immigrants unless a member of a native tribe. 2. Equity Women did not have the right to vote until 1919 and people of color were excluded and had to work harder more recently. 3. Inclusion Children with disabilities did not have rights to a free and appropriate public education until 50 years ago. These difficult truths are part of our history and those who don't learn from their mistakes are doomed to repeat them. Let's ensure our students and their teachers are equipped with facts to be better prepared for the future. A mom of three Iowa public school students and teacher of 25 years in Iowa schools

01-30-2026

Teresa Wellman

Respectfully, please vote NO on this bill. It further exacerbates the cruelty and division IA legislators have visited upon their constituents, most of whom can't even define DEI and are brainwashed into believing it's hurtful for them. Most can't even understand how they themselves are partisans of groups under the DEI umbrella. If the bill opens up even more avenues of penalties and suits, our courts will be full of frivolous suits that will cause pain to all involved and will do nothing to make life better for Iowans. Please vote NO and send this bill to a circular filing cabinet.

01-31-2026

Gerald Ott [RETIRED]

As perturbed as I am about the law, I am as flummoxed by the tepid response among practicing teachers, their unions and associations, and parents and communities who should see these laws as an infringement on their rights to a full and complete education for their children. The Journal of Gender, Race & Justice may not last long at the University of Iowa. As the journal's mission statement states, (The Journal) is not for the weak of heart or the timid in spirit. Feminist inquiry and critical race analysis are the touchstones of our endeavor. Our building blocks are new forms of analysis that reach beyond traditional conceptions of legal thought. The journal and its writers are clearly pursuing topics that the anti-DEI law is meant to nullify. In a March 26, 2025, article in the journal, entitled DEI Makes America Great; Iowa Universities Are on the Wrong Track, law student Grace XXX wrote: .. In a March 26, 2025, article in the journal, entitled DEI Makes America Great; I

01-31-2026

Gerald Ott

.. the dismantling of DEI programs at the university will negatively impact students. Students come to college seeking a well-rounded education. They expect to grow not only as students, but as people. A large part of the college experience is meeting people who are different and experiencing different ways of life. Without these experiences, Iowa students will not be well-rounded like students from other universities.

01-31-2026

Rebecca Stadlman

Please vote no on this bill. It is unnecessary, punitive and does not respect people who rightfully understand what DEI is, which is a positive affirmation of the value all people and what they bring to our communities.

01-31-2026

Stacy Volmer

I strongly oppose HF 2123. It is an extreme and dangerous bill that weaponizes state power to punish educators and public employees for politically disfavored speech. It mandates termination, license revocation, and severe financial penalties based on vague standards and invites harassment through unlimited private enforcement. This bill destroys due process, chills academic freedom, and will drive qualified professionals out of Iowa. It replaces local control and professional judgment with fear, censorship, and litigation. HF 2123 does nothing to improve education or public services. It exists solely to enforce ideological conformity through intimidation. HF 2123 must be rejected.

02-01-2026

Laura Brunsen

Vote NO on HF2123.

02-01-2026

Grace Rogers

AGAINST. Fett and Salmon are at it again. SF 2072 (Salmon's bill, which is not scheduled yet) is exactly the same as this one. It modifies punishment for "DEI ban" violations to require (if person bringing legal action prevails) termination of employment of the person who committed the violation, termination of the supervisor, if they were aware of the violation, and revocation of any license, etc held by those terminated. It also authorizes any "plaintiff" to bring civil action against the school district, for a minimum

of \$50,000. Your constituents OVERWHELMINGLY oppose this bill so do your job and represent them. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

02-01-2026

Mickey Rottinghaus

HF 2123 is a pathetic attempt to return us to the days before women and people of color were allowed to vote. While Iowa's citizenry continues to be mainly white, we live in a global society made up of a myriad of races and cultures. In order for Society at large to remain a peaceful place, it is critical we acknowledge, recognize, and understand we have enough in common with one another to allow us to live, learn, work, and worship together peacefully. It is only through seeing the humanity of the individual that a community can thrive. Exclusionary policies set the stage for ignorance to thrive and hatred to flourish. Please vote NO on this bill.

02-02-2026

Sandy Wilson [Citizen Engagement]

Citizen Engagement declares IN FAVOR of Hf2123. Please move the bill.

02-02-2026

Angela Maier

Please vote No! DEI is an equalizer for those who are marginalized, unfairly disadvantaged. Examples include women who couldnt vote until all to recently in history, disabled children who didnt have the right to an education until 50 years ago, and more. DEI was an initiative to make Americans better, and removing it is reversing paths and making us less great, less Christian, and less American.

02-02-2026

Danielle Nordmeyer

Please vote NO on HF 2123. Please do not continue to set back progress.

02-02-2026

Jane Robinette

It was difficult to imagine how they could make the antiDEI legislation any worse, but now they have. In addition to banning (the existence and funding of) DEI offices, employees, and content, and banning the teaching and training of illdefined concepts, now they are adding stiff penalties to violations. They want to fire the employees and supervisors who failed to accurately interpret these vague provisions of law. And remove their professional licenses. And financially penalize their school districts. The "definitions" of these concepts are so slippery and broad they will simply chill all programming touching on them, which I suppose is the point. I urge these legislators to stop trying to bully everyone into believing as they do. Vote no on SF2123.

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