

TESTIMONY OF REP. BOB LEWIS IN SUPPORT OF HB 2428

Madame Chair Estes and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 2428 (the “No DEI Indoctrination” Bill).

The Bill’s purpose is to prohibit public universities in Kansas from requiring students to take courses which teach DEI-CRT related content and to require the study of American constitutional democracy and its history.

In the 2024 legislative session, we passed SB 28 with super-majority support that directed Universities in Kansas to eliminate DEI-CRT positions, policies, programs, and related grants and contracts.

During the interim, the Special House Oversight Committee held a hearing on DEI/CRT to determine to what extent Kansas institutions of higher education had complied with the legislative directive. The hearing revealed that because promotion of DEI/CRT policy and practices was so embedded in the Universities that it could not be fully removed from the universities in one fell swoop. Thus, despite what appeared to be good faith efforts by the Board of Regents and University administrators, DEI/CRT remained embedded in many programs, including admissions and scholarship programs. The Committee received assurances that the BOR and University administrators would continue working to fulfill the SB 28 objective.

The hearing also revealed that the indoctrination of students to DEI/CRT thinking would not be stopped without also addressing what was happening in the classroom, which SB 28 did not address. The Committee found that many required courses in the universities explicitly taught and promoted CRT/DEI. Exhibit A was an introductory level English composition course (English 100) at K-State, which many students are required to take to graduate. The textbook for the composition course is called “(Re)Writing Communities and Identities”.

The introduction to the textbook states that “As part of this process, you will be asked to re-think and re-consider some commonly held assumptions about topics concerning human identity and diversity, hence the ‘re’ in the textbook title.” Students are further told that they will be “reading and writing about issues such as gender, socioeconomic class, race, and ethnicity.”

The word “gender” appears no less than 230 times in the textbook, “identity” appears more than 100 times. “Gender” and “identity” are, of course, buzzwords for DEI/CRT thinking.

Throughout the book students are asked to write about “gender expectations”, race and other “class issues”.

That this is happening in the classroom is not surprising given that for years Kansas universities encouraged, indeed compelled, professors to insert DEI/CRT ideas into their course materials. Nor is it surprising that the “(Re)writing Communities and Identities” textbook was authored by five K-State English professors and in fact required them to swear allegiance to this doctrine in their application process.

HB 2428 addresses DEI/CRT in the classroom. It prohibits Kansas public universities from requiring students to take DEI/CRT courses in order to satisfy a graduation requirement, unless within a major or program that actually is focused on racial, ethnicity or gender studies.

It also prohibits the schools from requiring or encouraging faculty to apply DEI practices or include DEI-CRT in their course material.

Finally, the bill also requires universities to require undergraduates to study American institutions, to include study of our constitution and the basic principles of constitutional democracy.

I want to emphasize that this bill does not prohibit the teaching DEI/CRT ideas in our universities. It simply ensures that those ideas are not crammed down the throats of students as part of required course material or otherwise. To the extent that universities believe such courses should be taught and there is student demand therefore, they should be optional and with full disclosure that the course will in fact teach such thinking.

I urge passage of the “No DEI Indoctrination” bill.

Rep. Bob Lewis (123rd Dist.)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Lewis".

Feb. 3, 2026