

Indiana Family Institute

2025 Legislative Session Policy Briefs

Updated 3/24/25

- I. **Legislation:** [SB #289](#)
- A. **Author(s):** Sen. Byrne, Sen. Johnson (Tyler)
 - B. **Co-Authors:** Sen. Tomes, Sen. Young, Sen. Doriot, Sen. Alexander, Sen. Maxwell
 - C. **House Sponsor:** Rep. Jeter, Rep. McNamara, Rep. Lindauer
- II. **Bill Status:**
- A. [Passed Senate on Third-Reading: 34-13.](#)
 - B. Referred to House Judiciary Committee
- III. **Executive Summary:**
- A. SB#289
 - 1. Establishes prohibitions and requirements on state agencies, state educational institutions, and health profession licensing boards regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - 2. Provides that certain civil actions for noncompliance may be filed against a state educational institution.
 - 3. Establishes requirements regarding a standardized admissions test for state educational institutions that offer health education programs.
 - 4. Requires a school corporation, charter, school, state agency, and political subdivision to post on its website certain training and curricular materials concerning nondiscrimination, diversity, equity, inclusion, race, ethnicity, sex, and bias.
 - 5. Provides that a school corporation, charter, school, state agency, or political subdivision may not:
 - a) Require or otherwise compel a student of the school corporation or charter school or an employee to to affirm or adopt, or adhere to certain beliefs or concepts; and,
 - b) Use public funds to to contract with, hire or engage consultants, trainers, or other persons that take certain actions to promote the ideas, beliefs or concepts.
 - 6. Provides that a school corporation, charter school, state agency, political subdivision, or an employee of a school corporation, charter school, state agency, or political subdivision may not, in the course or scope of public service or employment, promote, embrace, or endorse stereotypes.
 - 7. Establishes a process for an employee, a parent, or an emancipated student to file a complaint of a violation.
 - 8. Allows the attorney general to file an action for mandate to compel a school corporation, charter school, state agency, or political subdivision to comply with certain requirements
- IV. **Analysis:**
- A. Following the 2024 election victory for Republicans across the country, calls to end DEI programs and initiatives nationwide have become a key legislative agenda item for GOP-held state legislatures nationwide, including the federal government. With sweeping executive orders from President Trump and Gov. Braun (R-IND), Senators Byrne (R-41) & Senator Johnson (R-14) of Indiana are leading the push to eliminate DEI programs in the Crossroads of America, and in doing so, protecting Hoosier families and students from government overreach and infringement of personal beliefs. Senate Bill (SB) 289 is a major step forward in; enshrining prohibitions against mandating DEI trainings in school, providing transparency for Hoosier parents to better understand the policies and trainings used in schools statewide, rejecting the endorsement of stereotypes for school corporations, state agencies, etc and much more. This engrossed bill (February, 2025) gives Hoosiers a means of accountability in the form of paths for civil actions and enforcement by the Indiana Attorney General's office. SB 289 is a necessary piece of legislation that will ensure safety for kids, prevent indoctrination in schools and agencies and give parents the ability to hold their state entities accountable.
- V. **Conclusion:**
- A. IFI supports SB 289 (Byrne, Johnson) because this legislation aligns with [IFI's core values](#) of protecting Hoosier families, allowing parents to be the primary drivers of their kids's value systems, and promotes meritocracy, family values and personal dignity, as opposed to stereotypes, affirmative-action-like principles and woke ideology. SB 289 is a win for Indiana Family Institute, and a win for Hoosiers statewide.