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For Immediate Release
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Governor Evers' Veto of AB 1065 is a dismissal of free speech protections

In his veto message for Assembly Bill (AB) 1065, Governor Evers rejects common-sense First Amendment protections for Wisconsin's public campuses and gives credence to forms of ideological discrimination that are diminishing discussion in American education.

Ideological discrimination has become a pervasive problem in American higher education. Some faculty job postings are requiring DEI loyalty oaths, such as a March 30th posting for [Professor of Aerospace Engineering](#) at UW Madison. AB 1065 would have made ideological loyalty oaths illegal on Wisconsin's campuses. No longer could admissions, hiring, or promotions decisions be contingent upon students and faculty "pledging allegiance to or making a statement of personal support for or opposition to any political ideology or movement..."

Regardless of one's politics, it's a simple fact that ideological conformity is the death of inquiry and free discussion on campus. Thankfully, even some left-leaning academics are coming out in force against this pervasive ideological discrimination. That's why liberal Harvard law professor Randall Kennedy recently penned a column in the Harvard Crimson titled [Mandatory DEI Statements Are Ideological Pledges of Allegiance. Time to Abandon Them.](#)

Despite pervasive evidence of ideological discrimination on Wisconsin campuses, Governor Evers' veto message inaccurately argued that Wisconsin need not bolster free speech protections because Wisconsin already has a non-discrimination law. Per Evers:

Under current law, no individual may be discriminated against or be denied admission to, or participation, in a higher education institution due to an individual's race, color creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or marital or parental status.

Wisconsin's non-discrimination law does not protect free speech rights, nor does the law mention ideological discrimination. For example, current law did not prevent the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse from imposing ideological loyalty oaths on student groups. Those DEI oaths [had to be removed through private legal action](#). Today, brand new faculty job postings to become a professor of [Aerospace Engineering](#), [Information Systems and Technology](#), and [Psychology](#) all require DEI commitments and oaths.



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DEI statements are ideological loyalty oaths and an anathema to free and open inquiry on campus. Due to Evers' veto, these highly-politicized ideological loyalty oaths will continue to limit discussion precisely where it is supposed to flourish – on Wisconsin campuses.

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The 29th Assembly District includes majority of Dunn and portions of St. Croix and Polk Counties including the communities of Baldwin, Boyceville, Clear Lake, Colfax, Elk Mound, Glenwood City, Menomonie, and Woodville.