



## BACKGROUND

- Last September, the Education and the Workforce Committee unveiled a detailed [report](#) on the pervasive degradation of First Amendment rights on college campuses across the nation.
  - **45 percent** of students believe blocking other students from attending a speech is acceptable and more than 25 percent of students believe using violence to stop speech [is acceptable](#).
  - **90 percent** of college freshman orientation programs include a focus on DEI, while only around 30 percent of orientation programs review the importance of free speech or viewpoint [diversity](#).
  - **One in five** students state that their college's stance on free speech is [unclear](#).
- This hostile takeover of postsecondary education by political activists, woke faculty, and partisan administrators has established a dangerous trend that threatens students' constitutionally guaranteed rights and the ability of campuses to maintain a civil educational environment free of political bias and agendas.

## THE PROBLEM

### Free speech is under attack at colleges and universities.

- **College campuses are a breeding ground for illiberal thought.** Shout downs, cancelations, doxing, disinvitations, disciplinary action, and even physical violence in reaction to speech are pervasive on college campuses.
- **The forced commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is exploding.** Political litmus tests in admissions and hiring processes penalize applicants for not conforming to the "acceptable" beliefs of the day.
- **Universities are major recipients of taxpayer dollars but deny American freedoms.** Universities receive hundreds of billions in federal funding but continue to ignore established court doctrine respecting the First Amendment.
- **Universities are turning a blind eye to enforcement of free speech principles.** Public institutions, and the private institutions that claim to protect free speech, are neglecting to educate students, faculty, and administrators about university policies, much less hold violators accountable.





## THE SOLUTION:

H.R. 7683, the ***Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act*** restores the spirit and letter of constitutional principles on college campuses.

## SPECIFICALLY:

The ***Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act***:

- Makes free speech on campus a condition of receiving Title IV funds under the *Higher Education Act*.
- Ensures students are educated on their First Amendment rights.
- Safeguards the freedoms of association and religion on campus.
- Prohibits institutions from forcing students, faculty, or applicants to take political litmus tests.
- Requires all institutions to disclose annually First Amendment policies held by the institution.

## BOTTOM LINE:

Colleges and universities have abandoned their mission to equip students to discover truth and think for themselves. The ***Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act*** reverses this trend by upholding Americans' constitutional rights and restoring decency on campuses.

