

# UT Southwestern Medical Center

## Update on DEI initiatives at higher educational institutions

June 29, 2023

To the UT Southwestern Community:

I know that many of you are understandably eager for guidance on the ramifications of Texas Senate Bill 17 (“an act relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at public institutions of higher education”), as well as the Supreme Court ruling issued this morning regarding the use of race in college admissions. Since the passage of SB17 in the recent 88<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Texas legislature, our Legal and Government Affairs teams have been reviewing the legislation that proscribes a range of activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion to understand its implications for specific diversity, equity, and inclusion offices, positions, and activities here at UT Southwestern. The same high level of analysis is taking place with today’s Supreme Court decision.

We want to assure you that we are working diligently to gather answers to commonly asked questions. Please review the [current FAQ](#) (network or VPN connection required). There will be updates as more information becomes available. Even at this juncture, we want to confirm that the Texas legislative directives apply to both existing and future initiatives and not just the latter as I understand some have assumed. It is important to note that this legislation goes into effect **Jan. 1, 2024**, which provides us six months to make any necessary adjustments.

While we undertake our thorough analysis, we want to reiterate that we are steadfast in our determination to recruit, retain, and develop the best learners, faculty, and staff here at UT Southwestern. We remain committed to ensuring an environment in which there is opportunity for all.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.  
President  
UT Southwestern