

The North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Stands United Against Attacks on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

August 26, 2025

The North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (NCLBC) stands united to defend the freedoms, responsibilities, and opportunities that belong to every person in our state, especially those from communities that have been historically excluded or marginalized.

Right now, three bills targeting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) have been vetoed by Governor Josh Stein, but remain on the House calendar, and therefore remain a threat to the people of North Carolina. The Speaker of the House, Destin Hall, has made clear [his intention to keep these bills on the calendar until there are enough votes to override them.](#)

Under the leadership of Chair Senator Kandie Smith, the [North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus](#) has secured a full commitment from all 41 members to vote to sustain these vetoes. Every NCLBC member of the Senate has already cast their vote to uphold the Governor's vetoes, and every NCLBC member in the House has pledged to do the same if those bills come to a vote.

This unified stance reflects the deep responsibility we carry and the trust our communities place in us to protect their rights, their dignity, and their future.

As lawmakers who represent North Carolinians in every region of our state, we know how deeply these proposals would harm the people we serve. We also know that these bills are not about strengthening our institutions, but part of a national campaign to divide, distract, and roll back generations of progress building toward fairness and inclusion.

If enacted, these bills would tear down the programs and policies that help create equitable opportunities in schools, workplaces, and state agencies, and they would send a message to every Black North Carolinian and community of color that their voices, experiences, and futures do not matter.

These bills target our students, workers, and families, and they come at a time when we can clearly see the consequences of these policies in other states, [where more than 300,000 Black women have been pushed out of the workforce due to similar rollbacks.](#)

That is not just a policy failure. It is a moral one. That is why every member of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus is standing together to uphold Governor Stein's vetoes on [House Bill 171: Prohibition on DEI](#), [Senate Bill 227: Eliminating DEI in Public Education](#) and [Senate Bill 558: Eliminating DEI in Public Higher Education.](#)

North Carolina cannot afford to go backward, and the Legislative Black Caucus will continue fighting to protect a future where everyone, no matter their race, background, or identity, can be given a fair shot to succeed.

