



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

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**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 4 OF THE 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

House Bill 4 of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

Diversity is a strength, and never a weakness. Diversity makes our Commonwealth stronger, enriching Kentucky with people from all different backgrounds and upbringings. Diversity programs help us add more voices to the table. This legislation shrinks that table by attempting to control how universities and colleges meet the needs of their students and prepare them for their future. The bill forecloses our universities and colleges from fully embracing students from communities of color, from various faith communities of certain ethnicities, women, and the LGBTQ+ community. It would also prevent universities and colleges from investigating allegations of a bias except in limited circumstances. Sixty years ago, brave foot-soldiers marched in Selma because they were being denied the right to vote. Acting like racism and discrimination no longer exist or that hundreds of years of inequality have been somehow overcome and there is a level playing field is disingenuous. History may look at this time and this bill as part of the anti-civil rights or pro-discrimination movement. Kentucky should not be a part of that movement.

For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 4.

This, the 19th day of March, 2025.

RECEIVED
MAR 20 2025
2:07pm
House Clerk's Office
MBF

Andy Beshear

Andy Beshear
Governor