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## The Coalitions We Need to Defend Open Inquiry

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For the last few years, many colleges and universities across the country have experienced firsthand attacks on higher education through state legislation targeting diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Since 2023, about **120** anti-DEI bills have been introduced across 29 states, and 15 of them have become law.

These proposed bills and enacted legislation have largely been met with **silence from university leaders**. But over the past month, as attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion policies rose to the federal level via multiple executive orders and a Dear Colleague letter from the Department of Education, a broad coalition—professional associations in higher education, labor organizations, civil rights groups and elected officials—has filed numerous **federal lawsuits** challenging their constitutionality, including at least four suits involving educational organizations as plaintiffs. By taking legal action and securing a **preliminary injunction** against two of the executive orders, these coalitions are breaking the silence of recent years to send a clear message about the legality and harmful consequences of these policy changes for higher education and society.