



House Bill 285: Defending Academic Fraud Would Force Universities to Accept Creationism and Other Non-Scientific Theories as Mainstream Science

HB 285 by state Rep. Bill Zedler, R-Arlington, would bar universities from “discriminating against” faculty members or students based on the “conduct of research relating to the theory of intelligent design or other alternate theories of the origination and development of organisms.”

HB 285 would legitimize academic fraud

- Our state’s colleges and universities should and do protect academic freedom. But this bill would force faculty and administrators to advance -- or even fund -- research that has been rejected by the science community. Colleges and universities should not be required to support, financially or otherwise, research into junk science attacking evolution.
- “Intelligent design” creationism is a religious doctrine, not science (according to a 2005 federal court ruling¹).

Vague language of bill would infringe on academic freedom of university faculty

- The ominous warning against discrimination “in any manner” against intelligent design could interfere with a professor's ability to evaluate and grade a student's mastery of course material. It could also intrude on the decisions to give or withhold student recommendations.
- The language could also prevent faculty and administration from ensuring their science department is teaching rigorous, accurate course material that reflects the consensus in the field.
- Colleges and universities should not be required to look the other way when faculty or students distort mainstream science and research.

¹ **Tammy Kitzmiller, et al. v. Dover Area School District, et al.** (400 F. Supp. 2d 707, Docket no. 4cv2688)