

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
JOINT ECONOMIC
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 23, 2025

Dr. Greg Jones
President, Belmont University
1900 Belmont Blvd
Nashville, TN 37212

Dear Dr. Jones:

I write to express my concern regarding reports that Belmont University is concealing its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs and is admitting illegal alien students instead of fully complying with President Trump's executive action to end wasteful DEI programs in educational institutions.¹ For the benefit of Belmont University students and our state, I urge you to end all DEI programs and fully comply with the President's executive action.

Earlier this month, leaked video footage shows a Belmont official explaining how your institution has schemed to reframe its DEI initiatives under different names in violation of President Trump's executive order. In the video, the Belmont official can be heard saying, "we always try to just adapt to what's happening around us, but that does not mean, like, what we're focusing on completely stops, we definitely have to navigate very carefully and just cautiously."

Later in the video, the Belmont official can be heard referencing enforcement operations by Immigration and Customs Enforcement to remove criminal illegal aliens from our communities, stating, "we do have undocumented students here," and "we don't communicate to anybody externally who is undocumented." This administration has been very clear: postsecondary education programs funded by the federal government should benefit American citizens—not illegal aliens.

Renaming woke-DEI programs to circumvent compliance and public scrutiny degrades the educational experience of your students and the trust placed in institutions of higher education like Belmont. As a beneficiary of federal funding, Belmont has a responsibility to align with the President's executive orders and return to a focus on providing quality education to your students. Instead of covering up harmful, woke-DEI initiatives, Belmont should focus on ensuring it continues to play a vital role in Tennessee's legacy of world-class education.

¹ See Exec. Order No. 14,173.

For these reasons, I urge your institution to abandon its woke DEI practices and return to Belmont's history as a preeminent educational institution. I look forward to working with you to that end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marsha Blackburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator