Testimony Before the Senate Higher Ed Subcommittee, March 30, 2023

My name is Brian Evans.

I am speaking for myself as a private citizen.

I’m a tenured Professor of Engineering at UT Austin.

I’m a member of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and I also serve as Vice President of the Texas AAUP Conference.

I’m testifying against Senate Bill 18.

[Over 800 colleges and universities](https://secure.aacu.org/iMIS/AACUR/Membership/MemberListAACU.aspx) [1] adhere to academic freedom and tenure principles of the AAUP.

Many of these are our competitors.

Academic freedom is the freedom from censorship by the institution and the government in the professor’s teaching, research, and expression.

Tenure is a necessary [safeguard or] guarantee of academic freedom.

Tenure allows professors to have full freedom to

* help students develop the critical thinking, knowledge, training, and professional networks needed for successful careers

Tenure protects professors in

* developing and disseminating new knowledge from all viewpoints, including conservative, moderate, liberal, and apolitical.

Tenured professors take on

* long-term curriculum development, research projects & leadership positions

Without tenure, public institutions of higher education in Texas would lose

* up [to] $5B/year in [the current level of] external research funding

Without tenure at public colleges, universities, and medical schools in Texas, the following four things would happen:

* Texas would lose its competitive advantage in recruiting scholars with a prospect of tenure in another state or country
* Faculty and other scholars will leave for institutions in other states that protect academic freedom and tenure
* It would be incredibly costly to pay Texas professors enough to work without tenure to be competitive with industry
* Good students in Texas will go elsewhere to study; [and] good students in other states will avoid Texas.

[1] <https://secure.aacu.org/iMIS/AACUR/Membership/MemberListAACU.aspx>