



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF CHICANOS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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June 5, 2017

Dear Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) Member:

Last week, TACHE joined the City of San Antonio, La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE) and the Workers Defense Project (WDP) as plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). The lawsuit is asking a federal court to block Texas from implementing the controversial Senate Bill 4 (SB4) on the grounds that it violates the First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution as well as other constitutional and statutory provisions.

Your executive board voted to take this action due to the many ways that SB4 will be detrimental to our institutional membership as well as individual members. For example:

- Some of our TACHE members could face the possibility of being detained on our college campuses.
- Community colleges are considered “local entities”. The law could impact the ability of college faculty and staff to speak/teach freely regarding this legislation in the classroom or on their campuses. Doing so could lead to large fines of \$1000 to \$25,500. (See section 752.053 of the SB4 law.)

<https://legiscan.com/TX/text/SB4/id/1608435/Texas-2017-SB4-Enrolled.html>

TACHE has advocated for the historically underrepresented in higher education for over 42 years. When public policy, such as SB4, is detrimental to college faculty, staff or students or threatens to increase inequities in higher education, TACHE must speak out and take action. Advocacy is one of the very reasons that TACHE was formed. We invite you to read the MALDEF press release and to click on the link to read the lawsuit in its entirety.

http://www.maldef.org/news/releases/2017_6_1_MALDEF_Sues_on_Behalf_of_San_Antonio_NonProfit_Organizations_to_Stop_TX_SB4/

We remain committed to the TACHE mission.

Adelante,

Belinda Saldaña Harmon
TACHE State President