

Cigna Shareholder Meeting - Proposal #7 Statement
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
National Center for Public Policy Research, April 28, 2021

I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research and I move Proposal #7, which seeks to increase diversity on the company's board of directors.

Across corporate America, company after company is adopting board diversity policies based on race and gender. These procedures have the stated goal of reducing corporate groupthink and require companies to interview an underrepresented minority and a woman for each open board spot. This isn't diversity. It's racism and sexism. Not all women think alike based on the fact that they are women. Similarly, not all Asian or Latino or black Americans think the same based on their respective skin color.

We have a crazy idea: If you want to avoid groupthink, let's put together a team of leaders that think differently. In this arena, there is clear evidence that Cigna's leadership suffers from a lack of diverse viewpoints.

For example, the company supports the Equality Act.ⁱ This legislation would devastate women's sports. Did a single board member step up and ask why the company supports the destruction of women's and girls' sports in America? The evidence is here in your own backyard, in Connecticut, where two biological males regularly crush their female counterparts in high school track events.ⁱⁱ The Equality Act would extend this insanity nationwide. Do the women who work here, or employees with daughters for that matter, stand by Cigna's stance that women's sports should be eviscerated?

And the Equality Act would harm more than female athletics. It would cancel religious freedom. Full stop. Which board member stood up and asked why the company wants to cancel religious freedom? Did anyone have the courage, or do none of you care? I am not sure which of those is worse.

Scholars with the Heritage Foundation have noted that “[b]y excising the Religious Freedom Restoration Act from the legislation equation altogether, the Equality Act gives government free rein to restrict, compromise, or even eliminate the fundamental right to practice religion in pursuit of the Equality Act’s political agenda.”ⁱⁱⁱ It wasn't long ago that religious freedom was a nonpartisan, globally accepted human right. As these Heritage Foundation experts explain, “President Barack Obama... called religious freedom a ‘universal human right’ and an ‘essential part of human dignity.’ America, he said, ‘proudly stands with people of every nation who seek to think, believe, and practice their faiths as they choose.’”^{iv}

Is the entire Cigna board to the political left of Barack Obama?

If so, that might explain the company shoving the wildly dangerous critical race theory training upon its staff.^v How offensive and pandering to tell black employees they are suppressed. And are every single one of your white employees guilty of white privilege? Critical race theory and

“antiracism” trainings are a horrifying array of racist and toxic tropes that debase everyone they touch. Critical race theory belongs in the trash bin of history, not a corporate training.

Are you really telling us investors that Cigna employees are all such snowflakes that they are offended by terms such as “mankind,” “blacklist” and “brown bag lunch?”^{vi}

We believe that boards that incorporate diverse perspectives can think more critically and oversee corporate managers more effectively. Appointing a few conservatives may help the company avoid groupthink. That’s a win for investors and a win for true diversity.

Please join me in voting yes on Proposal #7. Thank you.

*Contact: Judy Kent at (703) 477-7476 or JKent@nationalcenter.org
and David W. Almasi at (703) 568-4727 or DAlmasi@nationalcenter.org
National Center for Public Policy Research
20 F Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001
www.nationalcenter.org • @NationalCenter • @FreeEntProject*

ⁱ <https://www.hrc.org/resources/business-coalition-for-equality>

ⁱⁱ <https://adfmedia.org/case/soule-v-connecticut-association-schools>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.heritage.org/religious-liberty/commentary/equality-act-would-cancel-religious-freedom>

^{iv} *Id.*

^v <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/cigna-critical-race-theory-training-dont-say-brown-bag-lunch-mindful-religious-privilege>

^{vi} *Id.*