



Kimberly-Clark

Locations: Texas (HQ) Industries: Household and Personal Products



DESCRIPTION:

Kimberly Clark is High Risk. The company yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. The company implements race and identity-based policies that replace merit, excellence, and integrity with preferential treatment and outcomes. Kimberly Clark embraces corporate initiatives that redirect its central focus from business goals to partisan policies and divisive issues. This approach fails to safeguard free exercise, free speech, and free enterprise.

Corporate Weaponization

Has canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious beliefs OR Medium Risk corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries.

Kimberly-Clark's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company recruits employees based on sexual identity. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (<u>1</u>)(<u>2</u>). Kimberly Clark is also a member of the Global Alliance for Responsible Media, which aims to demonetize advertisements and suppress content that "vilifies" individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity, discusses "debated social issues in a negative or partisan context" or spreads "hate speech" (<u>3</u>)(<u>4</u>)(<u>5</u>). However, the company has not publicly canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs (<u>6</u>).

Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate High Risk against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs.

Kimberly-Clark's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (<u>1</u>)(<u>2</u>). The company does not appear to discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or beliefs (<u>3</u>)(<u>4</u>).

Employment policies fail to protect against viewpoint or other discrimination and/or are High Risk ideological in nature.

Kimberly-Clark's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company forces employees to attend multiple, controversial trainings on gender identity, sexual orientation, transgender issues, and divisive racial ideology. The company provides gender transition guidelines for its employees and specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). Kimberly-Clark's Chairman and CEO Michael D. Hsu signed Catalyst's Champions for Change pledge, indicating its support of DEI in its leadership composition through the establishment of gender and racial targets (3)(4). The company is a signatory of the Gender & Diversity KPI Alliance, appearing to prioritize diversity over merit in its business structure through the establishment of gender and racial targets for its leadership composition and its support of DEI in its hiring and promotions (5)(6). Kimberly-Clark



Corporate Governance and Public Policy

Uses corporate reputation to support causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of High Risk expression.

Kimberly-Clark's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy (1)(2). By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Kimberly-Clark's CEO is a member of the Business Roundtable, which supports stakeholder capitalism over traditional shareholder obligations (3)(4)(5). The company's CEO, Mike Hsu, signed the CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion pledge, which includes a commitment to promote DEI through bias education training in the workplace (6)(7).

Uses corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom High Risk of expression.

Kimberly-Clark 's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company covers transgender related costs for its employees and their children, including paid short-term leave, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, medical visits and lab monitoring, travel and lodging. Additionally, the company has pledged philanthropic support of at least one organization or event that promotes sex and gender ideology (1)(2). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Kimberly-Clark was a member of the Global Alliance for Responsible Media (3)(4)(5). The company is also a corporate partner of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) and the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce ($\underline{6}$)(7).

Uses corporate political actions and/or financial contributions for ideological, non-business High Risk purposes.

Kimberly-Clark's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company publicly advocated for controversial sex and gender ideology through local, state or federal legislation or initiatives (<u>1</u>)(<u>2</u>). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Kimberly-Clark does not operate a PAC at this time and has not lobbied for ideological purposes (<u>3</u>)(<u>4</u>)(<u>5</u>).

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