

**\*\*Testimony of Olivia Adkins\*\***

**\*Before the Senate Education Committee\***

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Olivia Adkins, and I am 25 years old. I am an aunt to students in the Beavercreek School District, and I am here today to express my strong opposition to SB 293 and its House counterpart, HB 445.

I am deeply concerned about these bills because I believe they undermine the core values of public education and limit students' access to important resources. As an active member of my community, I've seen firsthand how crucial a supportive, inclusive, and well-funded education system is for all students. These bills threaten to remove critical protections for teachers and students, particularly those in marginalized groups, and could lead to a more divisive, less supportive environment in our schools.

In my experience, a strong education is not just about academics—it's about creating a safe space for students to learn, grow, and develop their full potential. By limiting the ability to address topics like race, gender, and history, SB 293 and HB 445 would stifle important conversations that help students become informed and engaged citizens. I believe that when students are encouraged to think critically about their world, it prepares them for success in life, not just in the classroom.

I ask that you consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. We owe it to our children, our teachers, and our communities to ensure that education remains a place of opportunity, growth, and inclusion.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Olivia Adkins