

March 3, 2025

Tom Young, Chairman

OHR Workforce and Higher Education Committee

I am writing in opposition to the passing of SB1/HB6. This bill is blatantly unconstitutional and would only hurt higher education. Not only is this bill limiting freedom of speech, it is also extremely discriminatory and will set Ohio back decades of progress. Diversity is not a dirty word, it is simply a description of the population of the United States, and therefore of Ohio. If we cannot discuss these simple truths in institutions that are supposed to encourage free thought and the cultivation of novel ideas, we as a society will never progress. Limiting these topics in higher education will become increasingly detrimental to the state of Ohio as these students go into the workforce and are unable to accurately assess and adapt to the diverse reality of our population and are therefore unable to fulfill the roles for which they have been "trained." This goes for all areas of study from psychology to engineering, music to chemistry. Furthermore, such a policy will reduce the influx of great minds and workers to Ohio. As a transplant resident myself, I know for a fact that I would not have chosen to pursue higher education in Ohio if I knew that such prejudicial bills would be passed. Ohio will begin to retain less of its population as residents leave for areas that are not so provincial in their beliefs. As a result, the state will suffer economically. In summary, the passing of SB1/HB6 would injure the state of Ohio incomprehensibly, perhaps irreparably, and is not what is best for our state or community.