

Ohio Senate Higher Education Committee
Opponent Testimony for Ohio Sub SB 1
March 3, 2025

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Allison Paetz. I have been a public school teacher for 13 years and consider myself a strong advocate for collective bargaining, which is essential for protecting the interests and rights of educators and students across Ohio. I write in opposition to Sub SB 1, as it poses a significant threat to the collective bargaining rights of faculty at state institutions of higher education. It would also set a dangerous precedent for dismantling these rights statewide.

As an educator, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that collective bargaining has on ensuring fair working conditions, reasonable workloads, and our ability to advocate for both educators and students. Teacher working conditions are student learning conditions. SB 1 seeks to prohibit faculty from collectively bargaining over critical issues such as workload, evaluation policies, and tenure. This not only undermines the voice of educators in shaping policies that directly impact their professional lives but also threatens the quality of education that students receive. This bill could pave the way for further erosion of collective bargaining rights, affecting unionized workers across all sectors in Ohio, including police officers, firefighters, and electricians, who may not realize that they are also being targeted by this bill.

The broader implications of Ohio Sub SB 1 extend beyond higher education. This bill's restrictions on bargaining and the prohibition of strikes for faculty members undermine the fundamental principles of negotiation and compromise that are vital in any democratic society. When educators are unable to advocate effectively for themselves, the quality of education suffers, directly impacting students' learning experiences. I urge the committee to consider the long-term consequences of this bill and to vote against it to protect the collective bargaining rights of educators and workers throughout Ohio.

Respectfully,

Allison Paetz, Ph. D.