

Hello Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, and ranking members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee. I am writing to you today as a citizen of Cleveland Heights, and a student at Case Western Reserve University pursuing a Master of Social Work.

I come before you today demanding that you vote NO on Senate Bill 1 and its companion bill HB 6. As you will surely hear from others today, this bill will dismantle critical elements of higher education in Ohio and could even make it unsafe to remain as a student or professor here.

Sec. 3345.029 of this proposed bill requires that institutions make all syllabi for undergraduate courses publicly available and searchable. It further requires that these documents include the professor's name, qualifications, contact information, and the course schedule. It further requires that these syllabi be fully and easily accessible to the public without requiring user registration of any kind, and that these syllabi remain posted for at least two years after the course has completed.

Let me first speak to you as a student and be fully and completely clear: this is not safe. There is absolutely no reason why anyone from the public should be able to easily access an entire course syllabus in its entirety without providing user identification of any kind and be able to obtain the exact contact information and schedule of a course. Per the language in this bill, anyone could search up key words about a course and easily find all the information necessary to show up, harass, and even threaten the safety of the students and professors of that course. If you care about the safety of Ohio students and staff at institutions of higher education, you can not allow this to pass.

Let me finally speak to you as a daughter of a tenured university professor who has been teaching astronomy for over two decades. I would never want my Dad's safety and wellbeing to be compromised the way that it will be if this reprehensible bill passes. I want my Dad to be able to teach freely without having to undergo extensive post-tenure review, wasting his time and university resources. I want him to continue to have collective bargaining rights. I want him to be able to educate his students, without having to pander to "controversial beliefs."

It was stated here during the sponsor testimony by the primary sponsor of this bill that your job as politicians is to "make policies...whether it's popular or not if [you] think it is the right thing to do." I must remind you that this is blatantly FALSE and frankly dangerous. Your job will always be to answer to the people you serve. If you allow this hugely unpopular bill to pass, you will each need to be prepared to look your constituents in the eye and tell them why you voted against their loudly and clearly stated interests. Opponent testimony has repeatedly outnumbered the proponents' tens of times over. I ask each of you as former students and current representatives of thousands of students to vote NO on SB 1.