

Opponent Testimony of Sylvia Snow-Rackley
Senate Bill 1
March 10 2025

Thank you Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, and ranking members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Sylvia Snow-Rackley, I have lived and gone to school in Ohio my entire life. I just got my AA and my EMT-B from Cuyahoga Community College, it was an amazing experience, I had planned to pursue my Bachelor's degree in Ohio, but if this bill proceeds, I will not.

I come before you today demanding that you vote NO on Senate Bill 1 and its companion bill HB 6. If this bill passes, it will not only severely inhibit the future of Ohio's scholars but the future of Ohio as a whole. From nonsensically creating barriers to academic collaboration with one of the most scientifically advanced countries in the world to limiting the free speech inside of classrooms, this bill inhibits Ohio's academic institution's ability to remain successful and competitive in nearly every way, however, particularly egregious is its attack on good union jobs in Ohio.

This bill's attacks on collective bargaining are blatantly anti-union and blatantly anti-Ohioan. Prohibiting full-time faculty from striking and desecrating their collective bargaining rights not only is a step towards silencing the voices and taking the rights of every Ohioan in the public sector but is also, most vitally, a decision that will cripple Ohio education. How can we possibly expect the best and brightest teachers to come teach at our institutions if our institutions cannot support them and their voices? How can we possibly expect the leading researchers, professors, and experts to come to Ohio knowing that Ohio would rather pour taxpayer money into limiting its schools and teachers rather than supporting them, rather than helping them lead Ohio and its citizens into the future. This bill claims to support the flourishing of intellectual thought, but it is clear that is doing everything to destroy it, along with a future for Ohio citizens.

This is my third time submitting testimony on this matter. Time and time again, hundreds of Ohioans have shown up in opposition to this bill. Time and time again the opposition far outweighs the support for this bill. And time and time again this group of "representatives" have shown that they have no interest in representing the people and the students of Ohio. This bill has claimed to represent the interests of Ohio students while at the same time ignoring the very students who have shown up at every hearing to tell them that the bill does no such thing. This bill will lose Ohio thousands of current and prospective students, it will gut our competitiveness on the national and world stage, it will take away the future of Ohio that Ohioans deserve. The continuance of this bill is an egregious show of disrespect towards your constituents and is a stain on this institution. I strongly urge you, the representatives of the people of Ohio, to vote no on SB 1. Thank you.