

February 23, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Higher Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on SB-1. My name is Kurt Brown and I reside in Union Township in Clermont County. I am an Ohio State University alumni and I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 (SB1).

SB1 is wrong for Ohioans for several reasons. Most importantly, this radical overhaul of Ohio's higher education system will have significant destructive consequences on Ohio's economy. Ohio leaders refer to the 'Brain Drain', where our best students and graduates leave Ohio for other educational and employment opportunities. Education is not Indoctrination, but SB1 seeks to limit teaching to a narrowly-defined point of view, preventing the more complete education required to grow these great minds. Our best teachers, students and graduates will leave Ohio for other states where the environment is not hostile towards education or employment.

I am a proud parent of four children, three of which graduated from the Ohio State University. They considered other out-of-state options for their education, but selected Ohio State due to its excellence in their individual fields of study. SB1 would have changed their decisions, by weakening the academic reputation of Ohio State and calling into question the integrity of their degrees (Doctor, Masters and Bachelors).

SB1 also seeks to limit collective bargaining rights of Ohio's public workers, including fire-fighters, full-time university faculty, law enforcement and other public employees. I believe everyone should have rights to bargain collectively for fair benefits and healthy work environments, especially in these public roles that we all depend on. If there is a problem in these work environments, we need the workers to be heard to properly resolve the issue. Previous attempts in Ohio to ban collective bargaining were opposed and rejected by over 60% of Ohio voters through a ballot issue; this bill is similarly opposed by the electorate.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Overhauling Ohio's excellent higher education system will hurt Ohio's economy, damage our exceptional universities and drive-out our best students and graduates.

Please add my comments to the public record opposing SB-1 and my Witness Slip is attached.

Kurt Brown
19 Sleepy Hollow Ln
Cincinnati, OH 45244