

March 7, 2025

RE: Senate Bill 1 - Enact Advance Ohio Higher Education Act

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and Members of the Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for receiving my testimony. My name is Emily Chesnut, I live in Clermont County. I am a mom to four kids, school board member for Milford Exempted Village School District, and supporter of public education (both k-12 and higher education). I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I grew up in another state and moved to Ohio in 1995 to attend college. I chose Ohio because of the many options of schools and the Midwest feel. I have loved staying and building my family of six here. My oldest chose University of Cincinnati, and I was glad to have him stay close to home. Senate Bill 1 as drafted will drive both students and professors to other states, it will limit the programs we offer and we will lose future residents like myself who stay in state after college, including all of their financial contributions to the state in the form of taxes and spending.

Senate Bill 1 will also harm workers – removing job protections for educators. We will not get the best and the brightest to teach our students if professors are scared they could be terminated at any time without warning or cause. Banning books and subjects has never ended well for those who initiate and push the bans – don't let Ohio be a poor example.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Emily Chesnut

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