

Testimony of Chris W. Post, Ph.D.
Before the Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Representative Tom Young, Chair
March 7, 2025

Chair Young and all members of the Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

My name is Chris Post, and I am a professor of geography at Kent State University, where I have taught for 17 years. I do not represent Kent State but communicate with you as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

SB1 undermines both collectively bargained rights processes of faculty and their review, and also the responsibilities of university presidents and provosts around the state. It does so by placing personnel and university decisions (among other faculty and administration responsibilities) into the hands of politically, and potentially partisanly, appointed Boards of Trustees and Chancellor of the ODHE. These legally negotiated and established processes include, but are not limited to course development, post tenure review, academic freedom of research, and retrenchment. This bill will jeopardize higher education in the state by politicizing it beyond repair. It will undermine the academic freedom of faculty to research and teach subjects critical to improving the human condition. It will also destabilize those processes listed above along with the duties of our universities' and colleges' seasoned and experienced administrations. Perhaps most importantly, this will all negatively impact our student bodies—the heart of any educational endeavor—as they will lose out on their faculty's collective expertise in the classroom, lab, and field. It will send Ohio's brightest students to other states and prevent Ohio's universities from hiring the best researchers and professors in the country. I implore you to reject SB1 on these grounds.

Sincerely,

Chris Post