

Testimony of Dorothy Supp, PhD

Cincinnati, Ohio

March 7, 2025

I am a research professor at the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine, where I have taught and been engaged in medical research for over 20 years--and, I received my PhD from UC in 1996 and have remained in Ohio to work and raise my family. I love the state of Ohio. In writing today, I do not represent the University of Cincinnati, but rather am expressing my serious concerns about Bill 1 / House Bill 6 as a private citizen who loves Ohio.

I am extremely concerned about the negative impacts SB1 will have on the state of Ohio. It threatens innovation and will harm workforce development to the detriment of our state. If enacted, the major impact of this bill will be to politicize college education in Ohio's public universities, creating conflicts and increasing the burden on faculty and staff while affecting few if any real improvements in the quality of education. As a scientist, I am particularly concerned about the potential effects on the teaching scientific facts that some with certain political or religious beliefs may consider controversial. Instead of the innovative, future-looking institutions we are so proud of in Ohio, this bill seeks to turn back the clock and take our public colleges and universities backwards. It is the worst kind of government overreach.

This bill is a solution to a problem that does not exist. Our universities already have mechanisms in place to address concerns of students, including students who may feel they are treated unfairly because of their personal, political, and/or religious viewpoints. In aiming to discourage "DEI," which is not really defined in the bill, while simultaneously promoting "Intellectual Diversity," the bill appears to be contradicting itself, yet this is clearly an attempt to elevate one political viewpoint over another. The new mandates are onerous, expensive, and will not improve our students' educations. They appear to be wholly politically motivated and will put Ohio at a disadvantage in competitions for the best and brightest students, educators, and administrators. The proposed mandates are ill-conceived, and some are likely unworkable or even illegal. Our universities are already struggling with insufficient funding and a shortage of qualified workers at all levels. This bill is not designed to help this situation, and will likely make it worse. If this passes, it will hurt our economy due to the "brain drain" that will certainly follow, as our most talented students and educators leave Ohio (with businesses who rely on our bright graduates to soon follow).

As an Ohio resident, taxpayer, voter, parent, and public university employee, I express my strong opposition to this bill and urge you not to vote for it. This bill is an example of big government at its worst.