

Alicia S Naab
Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Rep. Tom Young, Chair
March 11, 2025

My name is Alicia Naab, an Ohio resident of 49 years and I am concerned about the way passage of SB 1 would affect our state. As a Librarian and community member, I do not feel this legislature will benefit our current residents or attract future residents. I find the controlling nature of the wording in this bill threatening to the competent educators in our higher education facilities. These professors have the ability to decide for themselves (with their institutions) what information is appropriate to share with their students. They should be empowered to share information and not censured – as this bill attempts to do. Furthermore, curriculum and lesson planning are already overseen by institutional and state standards and do not need to be further controlled by this bill.

Additionally, the anti-union section of this bill is very disturbing. As a member of the SEIU union for the last 20 years, I can testify that Unions protect workers and keep us able to earn a livable wage that is utilized in the economy all over Ohio. Until I could join the SEIU union I worked for 10 years struggling to maintain full-time employment that would allow me wages and health care to make ends meet. Limiting Union power over employers would cause people to lose jobs, wages and have less money to spend living in Ohio. Like the educational aspects of the bill, it would also disenchant people wanting to live in our state. I also feel it would directly cause many residents to leave the state and find it less appealing overall.

This is not what I want for Ohio.

If changes are to be made to higher education, they need to be made in a less encompassing bill that targets more specific problems directly. The sweeping legislature in SB 1 is inappropriate and not what most Ohioans want. The language that controls what is allowed to be discussed on college campuses is dangerous and especially unnecessary. Higher education facilities need to remain a place where open communication and discussions can take place for the sake of a genuine, well developed education. Ohio should be a place that makes that happen.

Please consider the overwhelming amount of testimony already opposing this bill when it was put through the State Senate and the additional testimony being sent to you as a committee now. Ohioans have spoken and their voices should be respected.

Thank you, Mr. Young and the entire Workforce and Higher Education Committee, for taking the time to hear my story and point of view. Please remember that this state is full of residents who feel the same way I do. I felt the need to write to you about this as a representative of so many others who feel the same way but might not have the time or capacity. Please think of them as well while you consider this legislation.

Keep Ohio a strong Union working state with empowered educators so we can attract youth and professionals alike. Please do not move this legislature forward.

Sincerely,

Alicia S. Naab