

Dear Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce & Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing my written testimony today. My name is Lisa Zito. I have a undergraduate and graduate degree from the University of Cincinnati, am a small business owner, mother, and wife to a Veteran of the US Navy. All of my children have either graduated from a state funded Ohio university, or plan to attend in the next coming years. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6. If SB 1 or HB 6 were to pass, we as a family have discussed and are committed to leaving the state of Ohio in pursuit of a location where truth, history, and facts are honored and promoted. I do not wish to pay tuition at a college or university, or have a business that gives dollars to a state under these incredibly disturbing stipulations that SB 1 or HB 6 poses.

There are multiple reasons why I am opposing this bill. First and foremost, this bill dilutes institutions of higher learning by necessitating educators actually entertain disproved conspiracy theories, facts, and history. This bill places an undue burden on state institutions of higher learning, faculty, and anyone employed by the university to pander lies from extreme groups that promote hate, and misinformation. Facts, science, and proven theories are the reason society has been able to prevent and cure diseases, and provide equitable treatment to our fellow human beings.

Additionally, these bills will greatly impact economic dollars into the state with reduction in tuition dollars, affecting athletes who are looking at Ohio universities who are of a protected class, and with thus affect tourism associated with college visits.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on the destructive SB 1 or HB 6 bills.

Thank you again for the opportunity,

Lisa Zito

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