

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Kristen Staneluis. I am a graduate of Cleveland Heights High School and the University of Cincinnati. I'm a successful small business owner in Shaker Heights, registered voter, and mother to a freshman at one of our public universities. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Republicans claim to want small government, and yet this bill would impose cumbersome big government requirements over even the most minor details of how Ohio's public universities operate and **what they are allowed to teach**. We don't need politicians in our classrooms.

There have been dozens of op-eds and testimonies from students saying they will leave Ohio or refuse to come to Ohio if SB 1 passes. Losing students will have a major impact on our economy, not just due to lost tuition dollars but also the accompanying tourism dollars that come with them. We would also lose the best and brightest students who choose to go to school and live in states that value academic freedom rather than governmental overreach.

College is supposed to be a time for exploring ideas, but this bill would make that impossible by muzzling professors and limiting what can be discussed.

If you studied history, you should have learned that Ohio fought on the side of the Union in the Civil War. We were on the right side of history in that battle, fighting against slavery and for freedom. And yet, the current legislature seems hell bent on taking us the other way. SB 1 prohibits "any diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)." What do Republicans suddenly have against diversity, equity and inclusion? You would prefer segregation, inequity and exclusion?

Most of Ohio's universities are located in our cities, all of which are far more liberal than the districts Republican legislators represent. This bill and others like it are a blatant power grab and attempt by Conservatives to try to impose their political views over all facets of life in the state.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this unnecessary bill that would only hurt Ohio by causing a brain drain death spiral.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Staneluis