

March 7, 2025

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

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony today. My name is Marisa Martin. I am an Ohio resident and parent of four young kids. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

My oldest starts high school next year, and in the blink of an eye he will be applying to colleges. We've always felt that there are a lot of great in-state options for our kids to continue their education after high school graduation. If SB 1 / HB 6 passes, that will no longer be the case, and we will encourage our children to leave Ohio in search of higher education free from the destructive policies included in these bills. And we are not alone. Like-minded students, professors, and families like ours will take their tuition, room and board, entertainment and tourism dollars elsewhere.

College is a time for exploration; a time for challenging long-held beliefs, engaging in healthy debate and being exposed to the perspectives of people from walks of life vastly different from our own. Politicians have no place in our classrooms. Let teachers teach. Let students decide. Let the course catalogs of our esteemed public institutions be as diverse as the Ohio constituents you represent.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Marisa Martin