

# Opponent Testimony Senate Bill 1

## Workforce and Higher Education Committee

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on this important issue. My name is Jeremiah Schumm. I am licensed Psychologist and nationally Board-Certified in Clinical Psychology. I have been practicing in the field of Psychology since 2007 and have involved in training clinical psychology doctoral students in Ohio since 2008. I am writing as an individual to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1 (SB1), and particular concern regarding section 3345.0217.

I am proud to have received my Bachelor's degree from Wright State University and my Master's and Doctoral degrees from Kent State University. In reflecting on my own educational journey, I recognize that I learned the most from being exposed to diverse viewpoints that challenged my own ways of thinking. Training in cultural competency and individual differences was foundational in my ability to serve individuals who present with varying backgrounds.

I am deeply concerned for the future of health services psychology (i.e., Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychology) education and training and mental health services in Ohio if Senate Bill 1 were to pass. The American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation (CoA) requires accredited health services psychology programs to provide opportunities for all of their students to achieve and demonstrate competence in nine profession-wide competencies, which include "Individual and Cultural Diversity", as outlined in the Standards of Accreditation. Per the Commission on Accreditation Implementing Regulations (pg. 16):

"Effectiveness in health service psychology requires that students develop the ability to conduct all professional activities with sensitivity to human diversity, including the ability to deliver high quality services to an increasingly diverse population. Therefore, trainees must demonstrate knowledge, awareness, sensitivity, and skills when working with diverse individuals and communities who embody a variety of cultural and personal background and characteristics. The Commission on Accreditation defines cultural and individual differences and diversity as including, but not limited to, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language,

national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. The CoA recognizes that development of competence in working with individuals of every variation of cultural or individual difference is not reasonable or feasible.

Doctoral students are expected to at a minimum to:

- demonstrate an understanding of how their own personal/cultural history, attitudes, and biases may affect how they understand and interact with people different from themselves;
- demonstrate knowledge of the current theoretical and empirical knowledge base as it relates to addressing diversity in all professional activities including research, training, supervision/consultation, and service; and
- demonstrate the ability to integrate awareness and knowledge of individual and cultural differences, including intersectionality, in articulating an approach to working effectively with diverse individuals and groups.
- demonstrate the ability to work effectively with individuals whose group membership, demographic characteristics, or worldviews differ with their own.”

To meet this CoA requirement, accredited health service psychology programs are required to explicitly describe how they implement and train their students in human diversity and individual differences. Requiring accredited psychology programs to alter their APA-accredited approved curriculum to meet the requirements in SB1 could mean the collapse of accredited health service psychology training programs in Ohio because they would be unable to meet this required standard. Additionally, CoA requires APA-accredited programs to recruit and retain diverse students and faculty through program-level, systemic activities. Unfortunately, I have already seen the harm that the potential of this bill has done in my field, as highly qualified faculty candidates and perspective students have chosen offers from psychology programs in other states due to the anticipated negative impact on academic freedoms and quality doctoral psychology education of this pending legislation.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit written testimony. I ask you to consider my testimony, and the negative impact this Bill would have on Ohio students and citizens, APA-accredited doctoral psychology programs, and Ohioans' future access to competent mental health providers. I urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 1.

Respectfully,

Jeremiah Schumm, PhD, ABPP

Ohio Citizen, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Board-Certified in Clinical Psychology,  
Clinical Professor and Director of Clinical Training