

**Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 1**  
**Bethany Black, Middle School Media Specialist**  
**House Workforce and Higher Education Committee**  
**March 2, 2025**

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

Thank you for reading my testimony. My name is Bethany Black. I am a middle school media specialist and alumni of Ohio University and The Ohio State University. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As a teacher of 15 years, I have seen first-hand the benefits of programs and curriculum with focuses on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Entities rooted in DEI do not squash intellectual diversity, as the bill implies. Neither do they imply indoctrination. In fact, how can a course or program include intellectual diversity if exploring issues around gender, race, or ability is “banned”? The hypocrisy of the bill is clear. The bill puts big government’s hands around the throats of intellectual freedom in our universities, and we need to keep politicians out of the classroom. Furthermore, if it passes, our state would lose students, professors, tuition dollars, tourism dollars, and countless jobs.

As a parent of triplet seventh graders, I oppose this bill also because I want my children, as future collegiate students, to better understand their differences in individual identity, experience and culture through participating in diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and courses. This bill wouldn’t allow that to happen. As a parent, I can’t wrap my head around not wanting my children to understand the lives and experiences of people who aren’t like them.

You’ve received testimonies from thousands of Ohioians in opposition to SB 1, and hundreds testified in person. Only 14 people sent in supporter testimony, and **none** of them were public university students. Listen to the people of Ohio. No one wants this bill. Vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,  
Bethany Black  
Middle School Media Specialist