

# **Senate Bill 1 “Higher Education Destruction Bill”**

**Melissa Meyer**

## **Opponent Testimony**

### **Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee**

**March 11, 2025**

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

I extend my gratitude for the opportunity to address you today. Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Melissa Meyer. I am a middle school math teacher in my 20th year at Berea City School District. As an educator dedicated to fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment for my students, I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I am here today to express my strong opposition to SB 1 and urge you to reject this harmful legislation.

SB 1 represents blatant government overreach, allowing politicians to dictate how Ohio’s public universities operate and what they are allowed to teach. Our classrooms should be free from political interference—keep politicians out of higher education.

Beyond its clear assault on academic freedom, SB 1 poses a serious economic threat to Ohio. If passed, this bill will drive students and professors out of our state, taking with them tuition dollars, research funding, tourism revenue, and jobs. College students contribute significantly to Ohio’s economy—not just through tuition but also through the money their families spend on visits, local businesses, and long-term investments in our communities. Dozens of students have already stated they will leave Ohio or refuse to come here if SB 1 becomes law. This legislation will hurt our economy and workforce development at a time when we need to be attracting, not repelling, talent.

The overwhelming opposition to SB 1 is impossible to ignore. Over 1,000 Ohioans submitted testimony against this bill in the Senate, with hundreds taking the time to testify in person. In contrast, only 14 people submitted testimony in support—and not a single one was a public university student. Ohioans do not want this bill. Listen to the people you represent and reject SB 1.

Furthermore, SB 1 is the most significant attack on workers’ rights in over a decade. This bill guts collective bargaining rights, removes vital job protections, bans striking for full-time staff, and even erodes the meaning of tenure. If you respect Ohio’s educators and workers, you must vote NO.

Senate Bill 1 would inflict lasting damage on Ohio's higher education system, economy, and workforce. I urge you to stand with students, educators, and Ohioans across the state by voting NO on SB 1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Melissa Meyer