

**Opponent Written Testimony for Senate Bill 1 & House Bill 6**  
**Sara Netere**  
**March 3rd, 2025**

Hello Committee,

My name is Sara Netere, and I am a Cybersecurity student at Columbus State Community College (CSCC) and a concerned Ohio resident, writing to oppose Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 6, which seeks to ban diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in higher education. As a member of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP), DEI programs have provided me with invaluable research opportunities, professional growth, and a sense of support that has empowered me to pursue a career in cybersecurity.

Without DEI initiatives, I would not have had access to these transformative experiences, which are crucial for students from minority backgrounds. Programs like LSAMP and campus resources, such as the African American Cultural and Resource Center, create inclusive spaces that help underrepresented students succeed. Removing these programs would limit opportunities for students, especially women in STEM or students of color, and undermine progress toward equality in education.

I am testifying today because I believe that Senate Bill 1 would undo critical work that previous generations advocated and died for to ensure all walks of life are treated equally to help countless students succeed. I urge you to stand with students like me and vote against Senate Bill 1, as it would significantly limit opportunities for students who rely on DEI initiatives to level the playing field in higher education and beyond.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please remember, your vote matters. Passing this bill could harm countless students, limiting their opportunities to thrive. Please think about the long-term impact on their futures before making your decision.

Sincerely,

Sara Netere

