

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Kari Kendzerski. I am a Licensed Independent Social Worker and a parent of two children who attend school in Columbus City Schools district. I am a resident of Columbus, Ohio. **I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.**

As a licensed social worker, I am passionate about the importance of teaching diversity, privilege, oppression, and intersectionality in social work education. These topics have been at the heart of the Council on Social Work Education's standards since 1952. These issues are essential for preparing social workers to serve clients from every background with respect, understanding, and awareness of how systems of privilege and oppression affect lives. SB 1 and HB 6 would directly threaten social work schools' ability to properly educate students in line with our ethical responsibilities.

As a parent, I am deeply concerned that the passage of SB 1 and HB 6 will deal a devastating blow to Ohio's economy. I had hoped my children could attend one of Ohio's great universities as in-state residents, but if these bills pass, I will be forced to save more for out-of-state education, where diversity and inclusion are prioritized. As a transplant with no family in Ohio, I'll then move myself and my small business to a state that aligns with my values. This will not only jeopardize my family's future but also reduce local spending, further harming Ohio's economy.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.