

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Terry Conway. I am a retired English teacher who holds two Master's Degrees. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 6.

It was 1976 when I took my first Women in Literature class at UC, and it changed my life. I realized for the first time that the male white perspective was not the only one and that there were other women who felt the same way about the world as I did. Sharing ideas about a wide range of topics and from differing viewpoints was integral to my college education and spurred me into education. As a high school teacher in a predominantly white district, I embraced the new textbooks that were published in the 1980's that introduced students to the plethora of great writing from all races and genders, and my students became more widely read and more open to the world for it. The College Board also grew the canon in Advanced Placement courses, recognizing the need and hunger for a wide variety of voices in its choices of recommended reading.

House Bill 6 would undo half a century of progress in expanding young people's horizons and perspectives. ALL voices matter in a world where we need to re-learn how to get along with one another; we can only do that if we are encouraged to learn about and listen to one another. If you've ever read a dystopian novel (*1984*, *Brave New World* and *Fahrenheit 451* come immediately to mind) you know that the oligarchies maintain their power by keeping the masses ignorant. Is that what we want for our country, or more specifically, our state? We can only hope to bridge the divisiveness in our world by learning about each other, not fearing each other through ignorance.

Limiting access to a broad and thoughtful education through course and content elimination will send our best and brightest to colleges in other states. Limiting tenure and collective bargaining will send our best professors elsewhere. As our colleges suffer, our economy will suffer. This bill is good for no one.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this ill-conceived and dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.