

Testimony of David Hoffmann, Ph.D.
Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Rep. Young, Chair
March 7, 2025

Chair Young, Vice-Chair Ritter, and Ranking Member Piccolantonio:

My name is David Hoffmann, and I am a professor of history at The Ohio State University, where I have taught for 30 years. I do not represent Ohio State, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to House Bill 6.

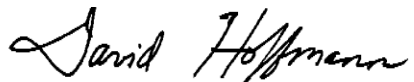
I strongly oppose House Bill 6 due to its many harmful provisions. The bill seems rife with contradictions. It claims to promote diversity in higher education but outlaws Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. It calls for “varied perspectives on a wide range of public policy issues,” but then mandates a civics course with prescribed readings. Overall the bill violates values we hold dear—freedom of speech and academic freedom.

House Bill 6 appears to be based on a fundamental misunderstanding of what goes on in higher education. Professors do not attempt to indoctrinate students. My colleagues and I place great value on encouraging students to think for themselves. In history courses, we assign a wide range of readings from different viewpoints and encourage students to assess those readings and come to their own conclusions.

I have always thought that Republicans oppose government regulation and intervention in people’s lives. Yet this Republican-sponsored bill represents a blatant attempt to impose government control that would eliminate academic freedom on our college campuses.

I strongly urge you to dismiss this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hoffmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Hoffmann
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