

Testimony of Makenna Lottig

Before the House Higher Education Committee

Representative Tom Young, Chair

March 11, 2025

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

Thank you for considering my written testimony today. My name is Makenna Lottig. I am a second-year political science and history major at Ohio State University. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill One.

Senate Bill One will destroy higher education in public schools in Ohio. I have lived in Ohio my entire life, and have dreamed of going to Ohio State for as long as I can remember. I have been so blessed to be able to attend the Ohio State University for the past two years. In my time at Ohio State I have had professors who have the best interests of the students in mind, and offer us all perspectives on issues, allowing us to determine our own beliefs. I have not been in a single class where I agreed with every single one of my classmates, or where the professor forced us to think a certain way. I have loved that all of my classes encouraged discussion, an ability to critique what we see wrong in the world, and a space to disagree. Learning about perspectives that I have not considered about topics that this bill will deem “controversial” has been imperative to both my personal and educational development. Senate Bill One threatens to take this away. In Sec. 3345.0217, line 600-604: "Controversial belief or policy" is defined as any belief or policy that is the subject of political controversy, including issues such as climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy, diversity, equity, and inclusion

programs, immigration policy, marriage, or abortion.” .These issues define my major, and the reason I came to Ohio State was to learn about these topics and develop my own point of view. Higher education is meant to spark debate, and address topics that some may see as “controversial”. Not everyone will agree, and that is the beauty of education, we can respectfully disagree and learn to understand the other side. This bill will effectively end open conversation and discussion that has been the backbone of my education at Ohio State..I love my school, classes and getting my education in Ohio, and I want to ensure that others receive the same opportunity as me. The passing of this bill will only deter students from attending Ohio’s great public universities.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony today. I ask you to take my testimony to heart and vote NO on this bill before it harms the education of all Ohioans.