

Written Opponent Testimony for SB1
House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
February 9th 2025

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

My name is Anna-Kate Miedler. I am a third year student studying Biomedical Engineering at The Ohio State University. As a student and active member in many organizations on campus such as Society of Women Engineers, Society for Biomaterials, Ecospace, and more, I have a lot of stake into the OSU community. I strongly oppose SB1 for many reasons, but the one I would like to focus on is the potential damage this bill will do to intellectual diversity if passed.

A large proponent of why I chose to come to The Ohio State University was the university's emphasis on creating safe spaces for intellectual conversations among students. I was inspired by the wide ideological range of special event speakers from Bill Nye to Candace Owens and the ability students have to peacefully protest on the steps of the Ohio Union.

This bill defines intellectual diversity as "multiple, divergent, and varied perspectives on an extensive range of public policy issues" and yet I fear that labeling issues like "climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy, diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, immigration policy, [and] marriage" as "controversial belief" undermines the ability of students and faculty to participate in these "varied perspectives".

Whether you like it or not, marginalized peoples are still placed at a disadvantage because of their gender, race, religion, sexuality etc. By getting rid of DEI initiatives, you won't be respecting "the autonomy of each member", you'll only be respecting the autonomy of the privileged. As a white, heterosexual Christian, I realize I fall under this category of privileged. I am asking you to listen and care for those who aren't privileged, the ones who require Ohio State's DEI initiatives to succeed inside and out of the classroom.

I genuinely hope you consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.

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