

8 March 2025

Dear Chair Tom Young, Vice-Chair Kevin Ritter, & Members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

.....

Good morning. I am an associate professor of interior design at Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design. *I write this letter to you on my own behalf as a private citizen.*

I am strongly opposed to the passage of SB1. As I am sure you're receiving many communications about this bill, I'd like to make just a few brief points to explain my opposition:

1. This bill limits my freedom

To disallow my right to organize with my fellow citizens, bargain with my employer, and strike (if need-be), is an unjust usurpation of my freedom as an American.

2. This bill will harm Ohio by harming our universities

Ohio's excellent universities have been built by the work of generations. They are powerful engines of economic development for the State and represent hope for progress and wisdom. Passing this bill will damage this precious inheritance and impoverish the future.

3. Government mandated speech is always wrong in a free society

Government mandates on ideas and speech didn't work out well in the USSR, or now in North Korea or Iran. The governments of free people do not dictate what free people can read, think, or say.

4. We need less bureaucracy, not more

This bill will intrusively meddle in the workings of universities, requiring the creation of many new layers of forms, bureaucrats, and useless administrators. This will be a colossal and demoralizing waste of time & resources. I vote for government officials who work to limit state power, not amplify it.

The work of educating Ohio's young people is a precious, daily struggle. I've been engaged in this work for decades and proudly count my victories (and try to learn from my mistakes). If you've doubts about the wisdom of what I do, or the efficacy of your investment in our programs, **I invite you - encourage you - to please come join me in my classroom. I would be pleased to welcome any member of your committee to walk with me for an afternoon.** The young people of Ohio are dynamic and promising, and their educators at Kent State University need most of all your support, and the space to continue to do our excellent work.

Thank you for accepting my testimony to the committee. My witness slip is attached below.

With best wishes,

Ronn

.....

Ronn Daniel, NCIDQ, IDEC, M.Arch
Associate Professor of Interior Design
College of Architecture and Environmental Design
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio
USA