

Testimony of Royce Carpenter, Ed.D., NIC Master  
Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee  
Rep. Tom Young, Chair  
March 11, 2025

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing my testimony. My name is Dr. Royce Carpenter, and I am an associate professor of Interpreter Education at Columbus State Community College, where I have taught for 18 years. I do not represent Columbus State; rather, I am submitting testimony as a private citizen.

Proverbs 16:16 says that having wisdom and understanding is better than having silver or gold, and Proverbs 18:15 says an intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. The goal of higher education is to impart knowledge. The gaining of knowledge is hindered when there are gaps in learning. The reason you esteemed legislators are able to do what you do is from gained knowledge through information. Information itself is not indoctrination. Information is the power to make an informed decision. The term “Intellectual Diversity” is in the bill. The Oxford Dictionary defines Intellect as *the faculty of [reasoning](#) and understanding [objectively](#), especially concerning abstract or academic matters*, and the term Diversity as *the state of being diverse; variety*.

The next generations, those who will care for us, must be able to think deeply and critically to solve the world’s problems so that the United States can continue to be the beacon of light and innovation it has always been. By denying full conversations on any topic, we deny the power and ability of intellectual growth and abstract thinking. We do not want our opponents to outthink us because they can think about their enemy’s perspective and then use that knowledge to plan, manipulate, and destroy. The issue of learning, knowledge, and varied viewpoints is much bigger than any American culture war. It is about the long-term effects of critical thinking for generations to come. For these reasons, I vehemently oppose SB 1 and its companion bill, HB 6.

Thank you,

Dr. Royce M. Carpenter