

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

I am a professor in the College of Engineering at the Ohio State University, where I joined the faculty in 2019. Prior to that I was a professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

I write to oppose the proposed HB 6/SB 1. The Ohio State University is one of the backbones of the economy of the state of Ohio, and its economic impact is the result of the careful stewardship and management of the university by its leaders and the governance of the Board of Trustees.

I urge you to instead advocate for Ohio and protect our competitive advantage in science, technology, and innovation that took OSU decades to build. Here is a link to the report on The Ohio State University's economic impact for reference: <https://erik.osu.edu/economic-impact>.

HB 6/SB 1, if enacted, will only hamper the ability of the top-class faculty and researchers at OSU to do their jobs. It will weaken OSU's reputation and stifle its ability to recruit not only the best and brightest faculty, but also the best and brightest students. The economy of the state will suffer as a direct result.

Please reconsider your support for this ill-advised legislation.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Flowers

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