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February 9, 2025

To: Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee

Subject: Opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 1

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. My name is Dr. Sarah M. Jackson, and I am writing to strongly oppose Ohio Senate Bill 1.

I am a psychology instructor at Wright State University. I received my bachelor's degree from the Ohio State University, and I earned both my Master of Science and Ph.D. from Wright State. I've been teaching organizational behavior, organizational leadership, introduction to psychology, social psychology, health psychology, research methods, and statistics for behavioral science for over 15 years.

As an educator, one of my primary goals has always been to teach students the importance of being critical consumers of information, including how to understand, respect, and apply the scientific process, how to differentiate valid scientific claims from pseudoscience, and how to conduct ethical research and act with integrity. I am dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, but I am also dedicated to my students. Teaching university students is not just about imparting knowledge; it is also about helping my students become well-rounded, healthy, happy, and productive members of society. This means supporting the whole student, including their mental health, accommodations for disabilities, and understanding and supporting the students through the struggles they face both inside and outside the classroom.

Ohio SB1 undermines all of these goals at many levels. This proposed bill shackles faculty, staff, and students. It silences instructors who have dedicated their lives to their areas of specialty and are passionate about educating and preparing our students. It waters down the quality of education that students will be exposed to, and rather than teaching critical thinking, it eliminates any course content that will actually help students be able to discern valid claims from false ones. It removes support systems which benefit not only the students who qualify for accommodations, but ALL the students interacting and learning in environments that are accessible.

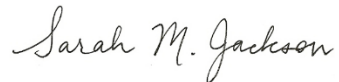
The government should not be able to dictate what a subject matter expert can and cannot teach in the classroom. Not only does this shortchange our students' learning, but it puts

peoples' lives in danger. Medical students need to be able to learn about the very real lived experiences of all their patients in order to treat them effectively, mental health professionals need to learn about the stigma surrounding certain conditions and identities to be able to care for their clients, history and political science students need to learn an accurate, complete account of historical events. The vast majority of instructors in Ohio will be unable to provide a quality education under these restrictive measures. Ohio has among of the highest volume of colleges and universities in the country. Do we want to lose our students who would prefer to leave and pay out-of-state tuition in exchange for a quality degree that they will be able to obtain elsewhere?

In conclusion, Ohio SB1 would only hurt Ohio's institutions of higher learning, with devastating effects to our students, faculty, and staff. This would, in turn, damage our economy, our industry, and our state as a whole. Do the right thing for our students, for our educators, and for our future: vote NO on Ohio SB1.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah M. Jackson".

Sarah M. Jackson, Ph.D.