

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony today. My name is Jeremy Baldwin, and I strongly oppose Senate Bill 1 and its companion HB 6.

SB 1 undermines essential academic freedoms by placing curriculum and faculty decisions under unnecessary political control. Academic freedom—including the diversity of ideas—is best safeguarded by educators, not political mandates. Although well-intentioned in promoting balanced discourse, this bill risks unintended consequences. Talented professors might choose to leave Ohio universities for states with fewer restrictions, reducing the quality of education and research in Ohio. This departure of top talent could negatively impact local economies dependent on university-driven innovation.

Moreover, mandating overly rigid requirements for course content and syllabi diminishes institutional flexibility, limiting Ohio universities' responsiveness to changing workforce demands. Ohio businesses rely on universities to prepare students for evolving market conditions, and this rigidity could undermine our state's long-term economic growth.

I urge you to reject SB 1 and preserve Ohio's commitment to academic integrity, genuine intellectual exploration, and institutional autonomy.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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Jeremy DM Baldwin