

Testimony of **Mark Granville** 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:

My name is Mark Granville and I am a retired business executive and a proud graduate of Bowling Green State University. Throughout my 42 year business career, whenever it surfaced I went to a Ohio university system school of higher education, there was a positive reaction based on the solid reputation nationally. Ohio universities are known for excellent academics, strong athletic teams and a history of welcoming people from all over the world and varied viewpoints. This reputation has directly benefited the state's economy by helping bring people to the state, businesses to employ graduates, and keeping Ohio's future leaders and innovators here to raise their families while calling Ohio home.

Today, when Ohio is competing with 49 states for economic growth, it's vital we don't take a good thing and make it worse. HB1 changes would significantly damage the benefits the university system delivers to Ohio's economy. The impact on how the schools will operate threaten to reduce out of states professors and students coming to Ohio, and will cause more Ohio high school students to pursue their higher education out of the state.

To win in the economy of the future, Ohio needs to attract and retain the sharpest people to the state - HB1 will do just the opposite. Please don't take a step backwards and damage a main statewide economic engine.