

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Taylor Jackey. I am a second-year art education student at The Ohio State University. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

SB 1 and HB 6 threaten both my education as a student and my future as an educator. Throughout my schooling, I have been fortunate to learn about diverse perspectives—stories and histories that differ from my own. This learning has deepened my understanding of the world, fostering empathy and awareness of the systemic harms that have shaped so many lives. It is this very knowledge that inspired me to become a teacher. However, under SB 1 and HB 6, much of this truth would be censored

These bills will prevent students from engaging with the full scope of history and identity. They will erase the voices and lived experiences of marginalized communities, depriving students of the opportunity to learn from and about each other. As a future educator, my goal is to create an inclusive, honest learning environment where every student feels seen, valued, and heard. If I am prevented from teaching students about all aspects of their identities, I will be failing them before they even step into my classroom.

Teaching about Black history, for example, does not devalue white students. Teaching about systemic injustices does not create division—it fosters understanding. These bills do not protect students; they shield them from reality, deny them critical thinking skills, and diminishes the sense of belonging that every single student deserves in a classroom.

SB 1 and HB 6 are a direct attack on education, truth, and the right of students to see themselves reflected in their learning. If these bills pass, limiting my education and restricting my future classroom, I will have no choice but to leave Ohio. My commitment to making students feel heard, seen, and valued far outweighs my desire to stay in my home state.

Do the right thing. Give all Ohio students the chance to learn about and love themselves, their neighbors, and every human wholly. I urge you to vote NO on these harmful bills and stand for an education that values honesty, inclusion, and respect for all students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.