

Testimony of Angela Robbins
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 Angela Robbins, and I am a military spouse and mother to a daughter who is considering universities to attend after her 2027 graduation. Therefore, I am submitting this testimony as an alarmed private citizen and Ohio resident who may need to consider out-of-state colleges if this bill passes.

Startling changes to SB-1 include the Boards censoring of faculty, educators, students and speakers from speaking or teaching on topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is a misguided political persuasion from a temporary administration that if passed, will be a regretful circumstance for the state of Ohio and the future of higher education.

Censorship is not an exercise in critical thinking, though SB-1 disguises itself as so. However, varying ideas represented by diversity, equity and inclusion being available to students gives them the best hope for a well-rounded educational experience. These experiences enable people in the job force to better communicate with and serve the public in many ways. It is difficult and concerning to imagine the professions of Psychologist or Criminologist, amongst others, without using DEI.

There is a current trend in politics that uses threats and ultimatums to disrupt and dismantle programs put into place to support historically marginalized Americans. Without funds from the federal government, we must rely on the state for support to continue providing ALL students with the necessary tools to become sensible and effective citizens of this great country. Defunding schools will not enable future growth of this state or the Nation.