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

Thank you for accepting this written testimony today. My name is Hannah Kemp-Severence. As I noted in my earlier testimony to the senate committee, I am a December 2024 graduate of the University of Akron's Master of Arts in Applied History and Public Humanities program. I studied political science as an undergraduate and have spent approximately 17 years working in the archival field assisting students, faculty members, and the general public with historical research projects. I write today in strong opposition to SB 1 and its companion HB 6 because of how it will stifle research and discussion both in and out of the classroom and promote the continuation of an incorrect perception of history and historical concepts.

Not only would archival research be affected, but the genuine exchange of ideas and process of an open learning environment that I experienced in my graduate history courses would be adversely affected with the passage of SB 1/ HB 6. We as citizens and students, both adults, and children, must learn, understand, and accept that our history as Americans and Ohioans is full of complicated stories and themes. We must be willing to hear, value, and discuss these complicated stories, issues, and themes which would essentially be shut out with SB 1/ HB 6. I have had valuable micro-aggression and implicit bias training as well through university programs that would likely be lost under the requirements of this bill.

In conclusion, I reiterate my opposition to SB 1/ HB 6. As a recent graduate, parent, and someone who values history education and research, this legislation would invalidate the progress currently happening in these areas and create again a dominant, one-sided world view against the best interests of higher education and the general welfare of all citizens. Please reject this legislation.

Thank you,

Hannah Kemp-Severence

MA, Applied History and Public Humanities, 2024