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**Ohio House – Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 1
By
Ronald Gay, Jr
Staff Representative
Communications Workers of America, District 4
March 11th, 2025**

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony today in opposition to SB 1. My name is Ron Gay. I am a Staff Representative with the Communications Workers of America, District 4.

I am here to testify today on behalf of thousands of active and retired members across Ohio whom CWA represents. We are strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

This legislation is concerning due to its far reaching, negative, impact on the way Ohio's institutions of higher learning are managed and how the students and employees of these institutions are affected by the rules and regulations included in this bill.

The points of concern are wide ranging. This legislation will put Ohio at a disadvantage when attempting to recruit students, faculty and other staff to live, learn and work in Ohio's higher learning community. The numerous new mandates that are included are burdensome, unnecessary and unfunded.

It also appears that the language of the bill limits the ability of leaders of institutions to deal with issues of hate speech and education of employees on how to deal with the diverse world that we live in.

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Additionally, the assault on labor rights is of grave concern. Ohio and its citizens have long been supportive of public sector collective bargaining rights, as was illustrated more than a decade ago when the Legislature enacted SB 5 over the will of a majority of Ohioans. Absent the ability to strike, the playing field will no longer be level. This makes it much harder for working Ohioans to negotiate with Universities to ensure a fair contract that benefits the State, students and campus workers, is reached. The most dangerous aspects of the bill to Ohio workers, the prohibition of workload, evaluations, tenure, and retrenchment as collective bargaining subjects, at bare minimum, must be removed from the bill.

This legislation is not needed, period. I urge this committee to reject SB 1.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful, backwards bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.