

Testimony of Georg F. Weber, MD, PhD
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 Georg F. Weber, and I am a professor of Cancer Research at the University of Cincinnati, where I have taught for 20+ years. I do not represent the University of Cincinnati, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen.

Allow me to write to you with serious concerns about SB #1 / HB #6. In its recent draft, the bill allows administrators to call for a “post-tenure review” at any time beyond annual reviews. This effectively ends meaningful tenure protections.

The concept of tenure has long been embraced by universities (it was introduced into American universities in the early 1900s). It has been recognized as enabling scholarly activity without societal pressure or peer-imposed bias. The academic freedom derived from the tenure system has been a cornerstone to abundant progress that would not have been possible without it.

Tenure status is not an entitlement. It is earned through the merit of academic accomplishment and bestowed after review by a faculty committee, the unit head (Dean), and the Provost. Through this vetting, the tenure system sets institutes of higher education apart from corporate organizations.

While the desire to replace individuals with “burnout” is supportable, without tenure protection many productive colleagues will feel incentivized to leave Ohio. Equally important, the possibility of highly competent faculty losing their positions on the grounds of personality conflicts will be of genuine concern.

I respectfully submit my request to profoundly rereview the societal values and benefits of the tenure system and the dangers of compromising it with HB #6. I trust that the bill will evolve favorably as it makes its way through the applicable committees.