

Testimony of Leticia Wiggins, 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 Leticia Wiggins, and I am an Assistant Professor at the University Libraries at The Ohio State University. I do not represent The Ohio State University but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I have been a resident of Columbus for the past 19 years. I came to this city from sunny California to attend The Ohio State University because of the strong public policy program at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs and the undeniable allure of Buckeye Football.

What made this education affordable and possible for me was the Morrill Scholarship – a scholarship given to underserved populations; a scholarship that changed my life trajectory and made my college education possible.

Once at Ohio State, I excelled and decided after receiving my BA in History to continue as a Buckeye in graduate school. I received my PhD in U.S. History from Ohio State in 2016 and now serve as an Assistant Professor in the University Libraries at OSU.

My success in academics is a direct result of the strong social connections and institutional support I received from Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. To find other students with similar cultural experience and understanding was key to my success. These programs considered my unique background and celebrated cultural differences to allow me to fully connect with the university community and feel supported in discovering my passions.

Working at the university now, I see students in situations like my own – they're bolstered by faculty and programming that celebrate their difference and make it possible for them to find community. A bill like SB 1 takes away this possibility of celebrating unique cultures and supporting students to feel welcome at the university. DEI programs do not harm anyone, they simply make the university stronger – this is a historical truth.

I ask you to vote NO on this bill and make it possible for students from all backgrounds to continue finding community at our incredible university. Money can be better spent elsewhere than supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Leticia Wiggins