

Testimony of Brittany Hand, PhD
Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
March 9, 2025

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

My name is Brittany Hand and I am an Associate Professor of General Internal Medicine at The Ohio State University, where I have taught for nearly 7 years. I do not represent The Ohio State University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to this proposed bill, which seeks to take away faculty member's ability to strike, prohibits required diversity training, and institutes post-tenure reviews for faculty. I believe that this bill constitutes a gross violation of academic freedom and freedom of speech.

As a supporter of limited government, I strongly believe that this bill is a classic example of governmental over-reach. The government should not have the power to regulate how universities operate or what they teach. This bill not only undermines the autonomy of universities but also infringes upon the basic rights of faculty members to express their opinions freely and to strike if necessary.

I find it particularly alarming that the bill prohibits required diversity training. Diversity is a vital aspect of any educational institution, and it is essential that we teach our students about the value of different perspectives and experiences. Banning diversity training is a step backward and undermines efforts to promote inclusivity and equal opportunities.

Furthermore, the proposed bill seeks to institute post-tenure reviews for faculty, which I believe is an infringement on academic freedom. Tenure is an essential component of academic freedom, which provides faculty members with job security and the freedom to pursue controversial or unpopular research topics without fear of retribution. Instituting post-tenure reviews would create a chilling effect on academic freedom and limit intellectual inquiry.

Finally, the bill's proposal to take away faculty members' ability to strike is an attack on workers' rights. Faculty members, like any other worker, have the right to withhold their labor if they believe that their employer is treating them unfairly. Taking away this right is not only unjust but also goes against the principles of the free market that Republicans uphold.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose this bill as it infringes upon academic freedom, the freedom of speech, and workers' rights. Let us work together to promote individual liberties and limited government, not hinder them.

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