

## **Testimony of Graylie McCanse**

Before the House Higher Education Committee

Representative Tom Young, Chair

**March 11, 2025**

Good morning. Thank you Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee for allowing me to testify today. My name is Graylie McCanse, and I am here to urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 1.

I'm a first-year student at the Ohio State University, but I am not originally from Ohio. I was born in Illinois, and I have lived in Indiana since I was 9 years old. Ohio State stood out among all the other colleges I was accepted to largely because of its commitment to diversity and inclusion, but also because of the quality of its programs in the social sciences. Before I knew *anything* about Ohio, I knew about OSU and the Buckeyes. If Senate Bill 1 passes, my professors would be restricted from teaching controversial subjects. In other words, they would no longer be able to provide the same cutting edge of social science education that brought me to Ohio. Isn't education supposed to challenge us about what we think we already know? I have certainly learned the most from teachers who asked me to question my beliefs.

Representatives, Committee members, I am not asking you to care about an undergraduate student from Indiana like me. I am asking you to consider the economic impact of out-of-State students coming to Ohio to learn. Even one student could mean bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars into Ohio's economy in cost of attendance, not to mention the money our families spend here when they visit us – food, hotels, football games. Senate Bill 1 would spell

brain drain from Ohio, and the Colleges and Universities of Ohio would lose their attractiveness to students across the country and abroad. Think about how many students come here from places like China and contribute so much to our State and national economies. When you let professors teach, it's amazing what these Universities can accomplish.

I want to close by saying that I've grown to truly love Ohio already. I live on campus, work as a barista on campus, and I'm proud to call myself a Buckeye and work in the State of Ohio. If this State continues to be a welcoming home to me and friendly to academic freedom, I hope to work here in Columbus in the future, whether it's as a social worker or as faculty. I wouldn't be taking the time to write this if I didn't truly care about the future of this State. My hope is that we as Ohioans can come together and forge a better Ohio – one that stands behind its workers, its students, its faculty.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony today. I ask you to take my testimony to heart and vote NO on this bill before it harms the education of Ohioans, and the Ohio economy as a whole.