

March 9, 2025

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Charles J Potter PhD, LPCC-S. I am a counselor educator in the state of Ohio, having earned my degree from The Ohio State University. With my education and experience, I train therapists, specifically those who aim to help clients who feel strong urges to attempt acts of self-harm or suicide. I have had (and continue to have) very difficult conversations with persons and their loved ones on the best ways we might save someone's life.

As a first-generation college student, I am immensely grateful for the opportunities I've been awarded. I am equally concerned about the content of SB 1 and the idea that our representatives are taking action to govern the curriculum of higher education in the state of Ohio. The platform of the current administration was originally less government oversight/regulation; however, it appears representatives are taking it upon themselves to oversee (and overwrite) policies and programs developed by some of the best regarded faculty (and institutions of higher education) in the country.

Do these attempts stop at higher education, or grow to include guidelines for other content/services to be restricted or otherwise censored?

As a person, and a member of a household, who has benefitted from our great institutions, I hope you receive my sincere concerns about this bill. As a professional who dedicates his life to saving the lives of others, I hope you choose to drop these pursuits and dedicate your time and resources to other causes that may benefit Ohioans.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Charles J Potter, PhD, LPCC-S
Counselor Education