

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

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony today. My name is Douglas Wang. I am a member of the Shaker Heights School Board, a parent of 4 children - 3 living in Ohio - and 5 grandchildren living in Shaker Heights. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I have a daughter graduating from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and in talking to her and her friends about where they want to live and work after graduation, the changes to Ohio toward more extreme political control of education makes them want to leave the state for a less extreme political environment. Attracting and retaining people who work in a variety of industries and, especially highly educated and trained people who can choose where they want to live should be an important priority of the state. Judging by the population trends for Ohio, we are experiencing a brain drain that threatens the Ohio economy. Bills like HB1 will drive professors and researchers with many other choices to choose other places.

Further, bills such as HB1 will not help prepare our students for work in the 21st century. Today, nearly 60% of college students are women and people of color make up an increasing number of college students. In order to remain competitive and attract the best students and professors, colleges and universities need to cast a wide and deep net to find these students and professors. DEI programs are not discriminatory programs rather they are ways that colleges and universities ensure that they attract and retain the highest quality students and professors with the greatest potential.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Wang