

Date: March 9, 2025

Subject: **Ohio SB 1 Testimony**

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify in writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6. I believe that the bill would impose unnecessary and harmful restrictions that would serve to weaken the considerable expertise of Ohio educators and would damage Ohio colleges' hard-earned academic and research excellence.

When I decided many decades ago to leave my Midatlantic state to attend college in Ohio, my school guidance counselor had little information to share with me; my classmates and family could hardly name a college in Ohio, and some who tried continually confused one state school with another. Today, many Ohio colleges are well known across the country, and for good reason. For example, in the 2025 U.S. News Best Colleges report, The Ohio State University ranks 15th among public universities and 41st in the nation. Ohio is home to seven R1 institutions, where tenured professors, who've studied their respective fields extensively, produce research that is foundational to advancements in medicine, business, engineering, and social sciences.

The rankings systems, while not perfect, attempt to predict what benefits can be expected when a student attends a particular college. Do they learn? Do they graduate? Do they go on to worthwhile careers?

It is the instructors, the professors, who most influence student learning and outcomes, not the politicians.

Each year educators welcome into their classrooms a diverse new class of young people hailing from every corner of Ohio, as well many other states, and find a way to address their widely varying knowledge backgrounds in order to teach an indispensable skill for our time: The ability to think independently, evaluate evidence to find truths, and, in short, navigate the sea of information bombarding us from every media source.

It is not the politician's job to define or dictate the content of the classroom.

Throughout my years in the Buckeye State, I have witnessed the tremendous efforts of family members who've chosen to work behind the scenes in college offices, to stand before the public as administrators, to sit for many years acquiring skills and knowledge in the classroom, and to complete the long, arduous work of mastering subject matter that earns them credentials—the expertise—needed to educate Ohio college students.

I ask you to stand behind our Ohio educators and to **Vote NO** on this anti-expertise bill.