

Written Testimony of Molly McTighe
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,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Molly McTighe. I am a lifelong Ohio resident, mother of 2 school age children, small business owner and graduate of Xavier University in Cincinnati. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

The graduate program I attended at Xavier was Clinical Mental Health Counseling. It was a competitive program to be accepted into and is well respected in the helping field in Cincinnati and beyond. What made the program so inspiring was the in-depth discussions that our highly skilled professors led many times in almost each course of the program. As students in these courses, we shared personal stories and experiences with each other to gain insight into how we develop our identities, beliefs and values. This was our training ground to then bring to the counseling relationships as working professionals. To skillfully guide clients with overcoming emotional and mental health challenges, it is imperative to create a safe, collaborative relationship. It would be impossible to achieve this without deep respect, acceptance and empathy for different facets of the client's identity. Imposing a ban on anything related to diversity, equity and inclusion would negatively impact social work or counseling programs like the one I was fortunate to complete. Openly discussing topics such as race, class, sexual identity, immigration stories, fertility stories and problems in society such as sexism and racism is part and parcel to the development of future counselors and social workers. Devoted professionals that are desperately needed more and more as time goes on in these trying times. Please do not strip these programs of what makes them meaningful and enriching experiences for students committing to helping those in need of life saving services.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Molly McTighe, LPC