

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, members of the Committee,

My name is Kathleen McGorray and I am a proud Cleveland State University M.Ed and PhD graduate and a career Ohio public school educator. I stand firmly against Senate Bill 1 and its companion bill House Bill 6.

This legislation would devastate Ohio's public colleges and universities and undermine the fundamental principles of academic freedom, inclusion, and critical thinking - principles essential to a thriving democracy.

SB1/HB6 represents an unprecedented overreach into higher education by radically altering how Ohio's public colleges and universities are allowed to operate AND what they're allowed to teach - undermining the ability of institutions to prepare students for a globalized world.

The bill's attack on DEI is an attack not only on higher education, but on the values of fairness and opportunity that should *define* education in Ohio. By restricting how universities address diversity and banning faculty from engaging with so-called "controversial" topics, this bill ensures that students will be *less* prepared to engage with the realities of the world. Additionally, threatening university funding based on ideological standards is a blatant attempt to force institutions into political submission.

This is NOT how we build a strong, inclusive, and forward-thinking Ohio. We must **keep** our best students and professors, as well as tuition dollars, in Ohio. I implore you to listen to the voices of students, educators, and community members and to reject this dangerous piece of legislation.