

Jaleena Howard

March 9, 2025

House Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Ohio House of Representatives

Subject: Opposition to Enact Advance Ohio Higher Education Act

Dear Mr. Young and Members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Jaleena Howard. I am a first-year undergraduate student at the University of Cincinnati, majoring in Political Science. I am testifying today in solidarity with my fellow students, and as a citizen of Ohio, to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am a proud graduate of Elida High School in Lima, Ohio. I have lived in Ohio for my entire life. Through my education at Elida High School, I have always entrusted the Ohio Government and the educational abilities of the state of Ohio. When I was making the decision to pursue a college education, I considered various other institutions outside of Ohio. However, I made the decision to stay in Ohio because I have never questioned the integrity or faith of the Ohio Education system.

If Senate Bill 1 passes, those departments' reputations will be tarnished. The very institutions within the University of Cincinnati that I have grown to value and cherish will disappear. Programs like Transitions and places on campus like the Women's Center, the African American Cultural Resources Center, and the Ethnic Programs and Services will disappear. Were these resources not available when I made my commitment to the University of Cincinnati, I would have made a different decision. These resources enhance the quality of education in the state of Ohio and removing them would result in students making the choice to leave the state, as they seek out resources and environments that are more comfortable and supportive of them, thus negatively impacting the state economy.

I urge you to oppose the Enact Advance Higher Education Act and work to find alternative solutions that better serve our state's residents. Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to thoughtful policymaking and look forward to your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Jaleena Howard