

Testimony of Alex Kanieski
Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Rep. Tom Young, Chair
March 11, 2025

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Alex Kanieski, and I am a student of Media Arts Production at Ohio University, where I plan to graduate in 2026. I do not represent Ohio University but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen.

I have attended Ohio University since 2022 in the Scripps College of Communications, and have taken over a dozen courses so far within the university. While enrolled in these courses, I have received an unbiased education through qualified professors and teaching assistants. The information presented to me in my classes has always been based on objective facts and logical reasoning, and has never been influenced by the educator's personal beliefs. If an educator is forced to remove a subject from their curriculum due to the opinions and beliefs of a single student, the rest of class will be suffering from the ignorance of a single student, and the thousands of dollars they are pumping into a college education will be wasted as essential/objective information is withheld from them.

In terms of banning DEI at public colleges, the majority of professors and teaching assistants that I've had at Ohio University happen to not be white. Although this may come as a surprise to certain lawmakers, their race has had absolutely no effect on the information I have received in these courses. Removing DEI promotes a racist agenda that assumes that these qualified professionals were only hired because of their race in order to promote diversity. This sets a prejudiced example for the racially diverse students at Ohio University, who will become victims of a law that allows segregation.

If SB1 passes, we will be regressing as a state into a bigoted era that condones restrictions on education and racial acceptance. I will not stand for this as an Ohioan student.

Thank you for your consideration.