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To: Whom It May House
Members of the Ohio House

Subject: Opposition to the Impact of SB 1 on DEI Programs

Dear Members of the Ohio House,

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony against SB 1.

My name is Elle Sells. I am currently a first year student at the University of Cincinnati, and I am writing to express my concern regarding the Ohio Senate Bill 1 affecting programs and academics at my university. I am a part of many organizations on campus, such as the Transitions program, the African American Cultural Resource Center (AACRC) Choir, and Delta Sigma Pi, Alpha Theta chapter. All of these have been crucial to my experience and ongoing success as a student.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion have played a crucial role in my educational journey and the experience of many students at University of Cincinnati. Personally, these programs have provided me with many resources, from mentorship opportunities like the Transitions program, and for some students financial support through Turner Scholarships. These initiatives ensure that all students, regardless of background, have access to the tools and support that they need to succeed. As a student from southern Kentucky, the DEI programs here at UC are what helped me make my decision for what college to attend. Without them, I likely would not have chosen to go to school in Cincinnati.

If DEI programs were defunded or eliminated it would make a significant impact at the University of Cincinnati. Many students rely on these resources to navigate challenges like financial hardship, lack of representation, and limited access to academic and professional guidance from people who look like them and understand their experiences. UC would risk losing the diverse perspectives in student organizations and through campus culture. UC prides itself on its international students and taking away these resources would have detrimental effects on them as well.

Additionally, removing these programs would negatively affect staff who support students through these initiatives. Many of these faculty members serve as mentors and Educators who

help create a welcoming environment on campus. Without them, students would have fewer support systems and UC's reputation as an inclusive university would suffer.

I urge Mike DeWine and the House of Representatives to vote NO and veto SB1. It goes against what our country even stands for. All students should have access to what they need to thrive and live the American Dream.

Thank you for your time and please put my testimony into consideration.

Respectfully,

Elle Sells, University of Cincinnati Carl H. Lindner College of Business, Class of 2028