

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: March 11, 2025

Name: Philip Neal Whitman

Are you representing: Yourself Organization X

Organization (If Applicable): Intercultural English Language Programs, The Ohio State University

Position/Title: senior lecturer

Address: 7916 Windrift Pl

City: Reynoldsburg State: OH Zip: 43068

Best Contact Telephone: 614 260-1622 Email: nwhitman@ameritech.net

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): SB1 / HB6

Specific Issue: economic impact

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person Written-Only

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I oppose SB1 from three perspectives: as someone working in higher education, as a member of the American Association of University Professors, and as a member of a local school board.

Opponent Testimony for SB1 / HB6

House Committee on Workforce and Higher Education

March 11, 2025

Dr. Philip Neal Whitman

Intercultural English Language Programs at The Ohio State University

American Association of University Professors

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Committee on Workforce and Higher Education

Paragraph 1: Introduction and purpose

Thank you for allowing accepting my written testimony. I am writing to oppose SB1 from a combination of perspectives.

First, write as someone in higher education. I am a senior lecturer in the Intercultural English Language Programs at The Ohio State University. I also graduated from OSU, as did my older son, and as will my younger son, so we are a proud Buckeye family.

I am concerned about the economic impact that SB1 will have regarding higher education staff. With its restrictions on freedom of inquiry (including the threat of post-tenure review) and free expression (including a ban on labor strikes), SB1 will make it more difficult for Ohio universities and colleges to attract and retain faculty. Why would they volunteer to work in such conditions here if they can work in a state that respects their freedom?

I am also concerned about the economic impact of SB1 in terms of students and alums. We can expect alumni to be a lot less generous in their donations as they see their Ohio alma maters become less welcoming.

And I am concerned about the economic impact of SB1 regarding international students. According the OSU registrar, there are currently more than 6,000 international students at OSU. Did you realize that an undergraduate international student taking a full course load pays a fee of \$1464 per semester over and above regular tuition and fees? If half of those 6,000 students are undergraduates, that works out to almost \$5 million per year that they contribute to our economy. And don't forget the indirect contributions: both undergraduate and graduate international students pay rent, buy groceries, and spend money on other

goods and services here in Ohio. Many of these students are Chinese. I am particularly embarrassed by the entire section of SB1 that singles out China. If SB1 passes, we can expect a much reduced international student population, in particular from China.

The other perspective I offer comes from my membership in the American Association of University Professors and my service as a member of my local school board. I didn't list that affiliation at the top, because I didn't want to write two pieces of testimony instead of one, and the fact is, I have all these roles in mind when I think about SB1. I am worried that if SB1's labor restrictions for higher education become law, similar restrictions will soon be proposed for other sectors, including primary and secondary teachers in Ohio's public schools. As a member of the American Association of University Professors, I stand in solidarity with all organized labor. As a school board member, I want the best working conditions for our district's teachers, which (as you may have heard) are our student's learning conditions.

Finally, as a member of the general public, I remember the outrage over SB5 back in 2014. This session's SB1 has the same kind of restrictions that were emphatically rejected in a statewide referendum 10 years ago, with additional ill-considered restrictions on freedom of speech and inquiry. Why would we think this is a good idea?

Thank you for your time and consideration.