

Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 1/HB 6
Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
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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 SB1. I am in my 4th year here at Ohio State University, and next year I plan on getting my Master's in Public Health. I also help run my campus's ACLU action team, with help from the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio. I've lived in Ohio my whole life, Westerville to be specific. I've learned here, and grown up here. I'm here to advocate against Senate Bill 83. I believe the passing of this bill will have extremely negative effects on university life and education for all people. Since high school, I have been trying to serve my community and especially my peers. I have spoken to school board members about updating the curriculum and creating safer spaces for people in my community, the constituents for whom you are supposed to be doing this.

This bill says it wants to target things such as 'controversial material' or stop indoctrination. But all you are doing is trying to indoctrinate us. Making it required to take an American History class even after the mandatory completion of a high school class IS indoctrination. Especially if you are outlawing how people can talk about this history concerning systemic oppression, colonial roots will always haunt our systems. It is your job, as our elected officials, to ensure that these systems stop degrading the lived experiences of your constituents, and your fellow citizens. To not be able to talk about 'controversial matters' is to not be able to speak from experience. How are you going to tell a college-aged adult that they are not allowed to, for example, explain how they have personally experienced hate and oppression as a DIRECT result of the American history this bill is trying to indoctrinate us with?

I value education so much, that to take away education and deny the intellectual abilities and lived experiences of students is nothing short of unconstitutional. To want to ban initiatives of inclusivity just shows outwardly what this senate values. Valuing homogeneity is simply an evil thing to do. You cannot erase someone's identity by pretending you are creating a 'safe' place. This is not safety; to ban people from wanting to take the initiative to better themselves and understand their place in the world in their student-led workplace is simply wrong. To act like racial oppression doesn't exist doesn't erase it or make it go away, it only creates more. In the end, this bill is simply unconstitutional; denying the right to strike and protest, denying the right to have a

stance on anything 'controversial' even though it is simply someone's lived experience. This bill intends to create intellectual inquiry to seek the 'truth'. As someone who has attended educational systems in Ohio my whole life, I can see that this bill only intends to do one thing, and that is to help fuel the false truth that oppression doesn't exist; that we don't need initiatives for equity and inclusion. This bill will do nothing but create division among peers. I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no to this bill.

And finally, because I am not sure that this testimony will ever actually be read by anyone who is voting on this bill, I would like to speak to Jerry Cirino directly. After seeing your testimony on the house floor for this bill, I can say that I have completely lost faith in this legislative majority to do their jobs. The job of the politician is to listen to their constituents because without them, you would not be here. You say that no matter how many pieces of testimony get submitted, you don't care and you will push your detrimental agendas on to your constituents who are begging you to just listen to them. The students do not want this bill, we have never asked for this bill, and to pass this bill would be an outrageous obstruction of democracy. I hope that my words made you think even a little bit and I hope you know that you have the power to do the real right thing, not just something that pushes your harmful agenda. Thank you.