

Testimony of Floyd R. Anible, Lt Col, USAF (Retired), Ph.D.

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:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Floyd Anible. I am a registered and active voter in Fairborn, Ohio, and I am a retired Air Force veteran and a retired educator. I served 25 years full-time active duty and two years Reserve. I held the rank of Staff Sergeant and was later a commissioned officer, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. I taught Aerospace Power History at the University of Wisconsin in Madison where I was on the staff of the Air Force ROTC detachment located there. I was on the faculty and staff of the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton for seven years. After retiring from active duty I served for 16 years as the Senior Instructor for Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC, a character and citizenship development program sponsored by the USAF) serving Delaware County, Ohio, teaching and mentoring young women and men enrolled in seven public high schools. As an educator I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Some of this bill's provisions have some merit, but others are deeply flawed from perspectives of human moral issues and principles of academic freedom.

4.) a.) Requires course instructors to post syllabi on a publicly accessible website. Such wide-open access could result in threats and harassment toward educators from political entities that have no material ties to the institution.

6.) a.) Defines controversial belief or policy as any that are "the subject of political controversy, including issues of climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy, diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, immigration policy, marriage, or abortion." As an AFJROTC instructor teaching aviation, we discussed meteorology, and I encouraged my students to seek out information on climate change from several reliable and impartial sources, not from single, biased sources. In discussions of military history, I expressed my view that the use of military force to resolve differences between nations should be the last resort, after all diplomatic and economic solutions have been exhausted. This provision of the bill would silence such efforts to mentor students to weigh impartial scientific and historical facts when reaching opinions on critical issues.

6.) b.) Requires institutions to affirm and declare that faculty and staff will allow students to reach their own conclusions about such topics without any attempt to indoctrinate any social, political, or religious views. Again, this would prevent instructors from encouraging students to rely on verifiable facts on which to reach conclusions. If students cited inaccuracies in tests or projects, instructors would be forbidden to correct those errors.

19.) Prohibitions on Collective Bargaining Subjects. This provision could easily be used as precedent to deprive not only educators but all union members of this cornerstone right. This is a transparent attack on organized labor, (attempted in 2011, but resoundingly repealed by referendum by the state's first responders and educators). A capitalist economy without a vigorous labor movement is unconscionable.

22.) a. Prescribes training programs that would forbid any discussion regarding the facts and destructive effects of systemic racism, inherited wealth, and white privilege, and make it impossible to accurately study undeniable historical events. This and provisions elsewhere would likely lead to outlawing student organizations whose goals are to aid the success of certain groups or communities, as well as forbidding curricula and materials intended to foster greater understanding of groups and communities who made significant contributions to progress in America.

24.) Adds full-time faculty to other state employees who are denied the right to strike, another cornerstone of the American labor movement. Again, unconscionable in the context of capitalism,

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.