

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Claire. I am a 9th-grade student in Ohio and have lived in Ohio my whole life. I have enjoyed many aspects of school throughout the years and will look at colleges in the next few years. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6. Senate Bill 1 would result in governments choosing how Ohio's public universities are allowed to teach. As a student, I want to learn about many topics in an inclusive space, and this bill could threaten that by potentially restricting teaching on the topics that students care about and are eager to learn more about.

Senate Bill 1 could also lead to drastic changes to Ohio's economy. If students decide not to attend college in Ohio, Ohio will not only lose tuition dollars, but college towns could falter.

Additionally, as seen in past hearings, Senate Bill 1 had around 1,000 opponent testimonies, while less than twenty people wrote testimony in favor of the bill. Ohioans have shown that Senate Bill 1 is not what we need for our economic and educational structures.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.