

Testimony of Mary Nally
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:

My name is Mary Nally, and I am an administrator at Ohio University where I have worked for over six years. I do not represent Ohio University but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen.

I oppose Senate Bill 1 and implore you to vote against this bill for the following reasons:

- There is clear bipartisan opposition to this proposal, and voting for it goes against the wishes of the very people who elected you.

SB 1, if passed, would be an unprecedented level of political interference and micromanagement into the affairs of Ohio's public colleges and universities and threatens basic worker rights.

- Throughout the multiple iterations of SB 83 and now SB 1, there have been a series of contradictions on freedom of speech, claiming to promote intellectual diversity while simultaneously dictating the way topics can be discussed. Freedom of speech is a core protected Constitutional right, and institution's Freedom of Expression policies already align with state and federal laws.
- SB1 will immediately and significantly impact student enrollment and retention, as well as hire faculty hires. It would make it more difficult to attract students and faculty to Ohio institutions; in the long run, Ohio will become even less competitive economically. This bill would exacerbate "brain drain," and harm the local economies in all campus communities across the state. This will be acutely felt in our rural communities in Appalachia.

Truly,

Mary Nally

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