

Opponent Testimony for SB 1
Callie Buchanan
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Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the Ohio House Higher Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony against SB 1.

My name is Callie Buchanan (she/her), and I am a fourth-year Political Science and International Affairs student at the University of Cincinnati. As a student at a public university, I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1.

I have lived in the state of Ohio my entire life. When I was graduating from high school, I specifically selected a university that valued its diverse student population and wanted to help all students, no matter their race, gender, or socioeconomic status, become professional adults in society. This is why I chose UC as well as why I chose a school in Ohio.

During my time in school, the classes and trainings I have participated in have given me a space to hear from those with many beliefs and opinions. Being in a community of learners with others has helped me to open my mind to new perspectives, even when I disagree with what they have to say.

I have only benefited from training and programming related to DEI. They have made me a more welcoming person, especially to those with ideas different from my own. They have still allowed for diversity of opinion if anyone else disagreed with a topic being discussed. SB 1 seeks to outlaw these difficult conversations and would prohibit any more of them from happening in higher education. This will harm the relationship between students and not allow for the full truth to be shared. It will only divide students more.

A bill like this will only restrict free speech on campus rather than allow for more of it. I urge you to reject SB 1.

Thank you for your time.