

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 Virginia Yoder. I am a former teacher with a Masters in Education and am a mother of two high school seniors. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

My two children that are graduating this year were planning on attending one of Ohio's public universities in the fall. I am extremely concerned how this will affect their choice to attend college here. It is frustrating to have this chaos happen as we make our final decisions on where to attend. This bill overreaches and limits conversations in the classroom. Talented professors will leave the state and Ohio will experience more brain drain of its brightest students. What professor would want to teach at a college in Ohio when we infringe on their discussions in the classroom, limit their tenure and eliminate their right to collectively bargain? Students from out of state will no longer want to attend our excellent public universities, leading to more lost revenue for our state.

We have lost quite a few students in our school district due to suicide and I do not want to see any more of my children's peers lost because we have eliminated programs that would support them on college campuses. Diversity, equity and inclusion is not simply about race. As someone who works in the classroom, I can testify that it also includes our neurodiverse students, second language learners, first generation college students and more. Any barriers to learning are removed by having diversity, equity and inclusion programs at all levels of learning.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Virginia Yoder