

3/9/25

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today. My name is Jeffrey Blumenthal. As a former family business owner who earned my undergraduate degree at a university in our state, I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

If Senate Bill 1 becomes law, Ohio risks losing much more than just students; SB 1 would deliver a serious blow to our economy. Students have made their stance clear in op-eds and testimonies, stating that they will either leave Ohio or avoid coming here for college if this bill moves forward. That means fewer tuition dollars supporting our universities, fewer families visiting for campus tours and student events, and a decline in tourism dollars spent at hotels, restaurants, and local businesses. The economic consequences would be far-reaching, affecting jobs, institutions, and communities across the state.

On a personal level, I want my great-niece to have the opportunity to receive an excellent education in Ohio and to feel excited about staying here to build her future. SB 1 puts both at risk. A thriving Ohio depends on drawing in and keeping talented individuals. If you care about our state's economy and long-term success, I urge you to VOTE NO on SB 1.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.