

Opponent Testimony

Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee

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

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony.

I am a lifelong resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. I attended university here in Ohio and I am now an employee of the University of Cincinnati.

I love my country, my state, and my city.

But my state is failing me and the students of today.

I am a person of color, a person with a learning disability. I am a first generation college graduate.

I never thought I'd be able to make it through college and be successful. But, I was. I made it. But it was not because of my skills alone. It was because of the programs and centers on campus that gave me the opportunity to thrive.

Centers like the LGBTQ, the Women's Center, and centers for students of all ethnic backgrounds are extremely important to students. For some students, these places can sometimes be the only support system a student has. These places are students' homes away from home.

Senate Bill 1 will not only destroy students' sense of community but it will have an impact on their academics. If a student or a person doesn't not feel like they belong or are represented in their environment it is hard to feel like they can be successful or can achieve something that they don't see themselves in.

This Bill is not what the Ohio people want. Students are scared, faculty and staff are scared. This bill removes the freedom of speech for many people, not just those of minority backgrounds. Students protested at UC like their lives depended on. Because for some, it did.

Please I beg you to not let this bill pass nor let another like this.

Thank you,

Signed a concerned Ohio citizen.