

Opponent Testimony for SB 1
Valentine Molloy
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Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Higher Education committee, thanking you for reading my written testimony against Senate Bill 1.

I am Valentine Molloy, a second year Sound Design and Audio Technology at the University of Cincinnati. I am writing this testimony to express my strong opposition to SB 1.

I chose to attend the University of Cincinnati because I believed in its academic excellence and its dedication to teaching and supporting students of a diverse background. I believed that my college would be able to offer support to me and other students with a wide range of life experiences, beliefs, and identities.

This support of diversity has only enhanced my schooling experience. The ability to discuss difficult topics and listen to a wide range of voices has caused me to gain much more knowledge, compassion, and strength of character. These discussions have let me know that my opinion as a student and person are valued by my peers and the University at large, creating an environment in which I feel safe and encouraged to learn.

If Senate Bill 1 passes, these protections and discussions will be prohibited. This would heavily devalue the education I am receiving. Without support for free discussion of topics, I will not receive an education that truly prepares me for life beyond college. Additionally, removing support for programs that support diversity make learning institutions hostile to large portions of their student body. In an unsafe environment, students are not able to truly engage with their education.

Already, I have experienced how my school has become hostile towards its transgender students, including myself and many of my friends. I have had issues focusing on my education while wrestling with the lack of compassion that the organization I pay thousands of dollars to attend has for me and my peers, and the lack of safety provided for us. This bill would only worsen this issue and eliminate the support that remains for students like me and many others.

Passing Senate Bill 1 does not benefit students. It limits what we are allowed to learn about and it keeps us from feeling safe in our communities.

I implore you to value the voices of the students in Ohio and vote No on Senate Bill 1.

Thank you for your time.