

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 Erin Roberts. I am a constituent living in Waterford, Ohio, the mother of four children ranging in age from 14 to 21, a higher education administrator at Ohio University, vice president of a childhood cancer advocacy and funding non-profit, a daughter, a wife, and an extremely concerned citizen. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Senate Bill 1 would have catastrophic effects to Ohio's public universities, economy and livelihood. The government should NOT be allowed to decide how our public universities are allowed to operate and what they are allowed to teach. SB 1 is an enormous step backward for the state of Ohio. **Colleges and universities are and should be progressive places that foster the exploration of new ideas, freedom and education on ALL topics.** This bill would heavily restrict teaching of subjects and current events considered "controversial" by unnamed powers; would ban important diversity programs that help us to thwart racism, classism and discrimination; and would place whole departments, majors, courses, workers' rights and hard-earned tenure programs at risk.

Aside from the sheer morality of this bill, if SB 1 passes, it will have a huge negative economic impact on the state of Ohio. Our state will lose students, professors, tuition dollars, and tourism dollars and be widely known as a rigid and conservative state with overbearing governmental official influence: hardly a place where a young person seeking to learn and make a difference in the world would seek higher education.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.