

Testimony of Andrew D. Czaja, Ph.D.  
Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee  
Rep. Tom Young, Chair  
March 11, 2025

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Andrew Czaja, and I am an associate professor of Geosciences at the University of Cincinnati, where I have taught for 13 years. I do not represent the University of Cincinnati but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in **opposition** to Senate Bill 1 (SB1).

This bill, if made law would drastically harm higher education in Ohio by making our colleges and universities less robust. For starters, the banning of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs is misguided for several reasons. For one, the purpose of these programs is to “level the playing field,” allowing us to truly hire the best individuals making us a true meritocracy. Thus, the legislation should be opposed for that alone.

However, many of the other provisions will have severe impacts on the quality of education, which will have the knock-on effect of negatively impacting Ohio’s economy. For example, limiting academic freedom and shared governance. According to *U.S. News*, of the top 200 public institutions in the US, Ohio has nine, which is the fourth most in the country. That is something we should be proud of in Ohio and try to maintain if not increase. Passage of SB1 will make our high ed institutions less robust and less attractive to prospective students and faculty. This will lead to dwindling graduation rates as the best and the brightest (both students and faculty) seek opportunities at higher quality institutions outside of Ohio. This will also drive away business partnerships our universities currently attract. The “brain drain” out of the state would then also drive away businesses and industries chasing those highest quality grads who would no longer be in Ohio.

I thank you for your time and again strongly urge that this bill not pass for the good of Ohio.

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