

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 Marc Blumenthal. Born and raised in Ohio, I earned my degree at a university in our state and had opportunities to work and build my life here, which I did. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

If Senate Bill 1 passes, Ohio stands to lose more than just students—it will take a major hit to our economy. As a lifelong Ohioan, I've seen how important it is to keep young people here. But students are making it clear in op-eds and testimonies that they won't stay in Ohio—or even come here for college—if this bill becomes law. That means fewer tuition dollars flowing into our universities, fewer families visiting for college tours and student events, and less money spent at our hotels, restaurants, and local businesses. The economic impact would be devastating, leading to lost jobs, struggling institutions, and declining communities across the state.

I also want the young people in our family to be able to get a great education right here in Ohio, and I want them to feel like this is a state worth staying in after they graduate. SB 1 makes both of those things less likely. If we care about keeping Ohio strong, we need to attract and retain young talent—not drive it away. If you care about Ohio's economy and its future, I urge you to VOTE NO on SB 1.

I ask you to take my words to heart and vote NO on this reckless bill.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

*Marc Blumenthal*