

Testimony of Afsoon Sabet, M.S.
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 Afsoon Sabet, and I am a PhD student at Ohio State University, where I have been a student for 2 years. I do not represent Ohio State University but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen opposed to Senate Bill 1. This bill is drastic for our higher education systems in the state of Ohio, and will stifle research, creativity, education, and more. As a first generation American from a rural part of the United States, people like me will be directly impacted as a result of this bill. The attack on “diversity, equity, and inclusion”, have enabled rural Americans, like me, to attend college and seek higher learning to achieve their dreams. Further, by claiming to remove the “political” from education, SB1 is doing the complete opposite. This bill will allow harmful and incorrect ideologies to be taught at premier universities, including topics such as Holocaust denial, and more. Frankly, many aspects of this bill are redundant! For example, posting course syllabi, a mandate of SB1, is already commonplace at many universities, and those syllabi are available for anyone to access. American history courses are already taught at universities. Race-based admissions are already illegal, and equal opportunity is already national law. At best, this bill is a waste of taxpayer dollars, and at worst, a gross attack on our Bill of Rights and our Freedom of Speech as Americans. SB1 will harm Ohio Universities in an irreversible manner by stifling admissions and recruitment, harming education, negatively affect academic freedom, and harm the economy of Ohio at large due to the previously mentioned points.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony today. I ask you to take my testimony and vote NO on this bill before it harms the education of Ohioans. Thank you for this opportunity.