

Testimony of Mackenzie Glass, 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 Mackenzie Glass, I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition of Senate Bill 1.

I am a life-long resident of Ohio and someone whose family has deep roots in Ohio's education system. Many of my immediate family members dedicated their careers to educating students in Ohio, instilling in me a profound respect for education and the critical role it plays in shaping our society.

My continuing education gave me the freedom to explore diverse viewpoints and cultures, which has been instrumental in my success as a creative professional. The arts have long been a catalyst for prolific change and innovation, often pushing society forward by challenging norms and introducing new ways of thinking. Restricting academic freedom threatens this progress, limiting students' ability to develop creativity, critical thinking, and cultural awareness.

I am deeply concerned that SB1 threatens the integrity of Ohio's education system. Policies that undermine the expertise of educators, impose unnecessary restrictions, or limit academic freedom will ultimately weaken the quality of education available to future students. A strong and independent education system is essential for developing a skilled workforce and maintaining Ohio's reputation as a state that values its diversity and innovation.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1 and to instead support policies that empower educators, uphold academic integrity, and ensure that all students continue to have access to a well-rounded education. Thank you for your time and consideration.