

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce & Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. My name is Sara Klink. I am an academic librarian and have been for over 20 years. I have spent the last 15 years working as the Assistant Library Director at Stark State College. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

This bill stifles critical thinking and sends a message to current and prospective students that Ohio's higher education system is not forward thinking and you will not be exposed to challenging topics or real world situations. This bill will also handcuff faculty and librarians. There is much risk of Ohio losing some of its brightest and most motivated faculty. These folks will leave to work in states that support evidence based practices and research.

I have already seen ads and posts by universities in the surrounding states talking about their support of DEI and intellectual freedom. Ohio has already been suffering from the "brain drain" this bill will seal the deal and pull students and faculty away from Ohio's universities and colleges.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

-Sara Klink