

Sunday, March 9, 2025

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Tina Bhargava. I am a native Ohioan and currently a resident and small business owner in Kent, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I grew up in Kent. Kent is a college town and Kent State University has always been a part of my life and a vital and wonderful part of our town. Senate Bill 1 would be disastrous for the city of Kent, for Kent State, and for higher education in Ohio overall.

We will lose students from Ohio education due to the harmful effects of this bill. Students are a vital part of our community. We will lose the support and business of their parents. We will lose valuable members of our community who are currently faculty and staff and the university. This bill undermines and devalues the critical and amazing work of the university.

This bill also undermines union rights, which—as a small business owner—I find completely unacceptable. Workers have rights to negotiate for their work conditions and compensation. Ohio legislators cannot simply decide to take away the right to strike.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful, extremist, and unconstitutional bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Bhargava". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tina Bhargava