

Testimony of Sandy Wong, PhD
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:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony against House Bill 6/Senate Bill 1. My name is Sandy Wong, and I am an Assistant Professor of Geography at The Ohio State University. I do not represent OSU; I am submitting testimony as a private citizen to strongly oppose HB 6.

House Bill 6 is a dangerous, big-government bill that will cost Ohio's ability to attract and retain first-rate students and faculty, and it will hurt Ohio's economy. Prior to joining OSU in Fall 2023, I was an Assistant Professor at Florida State University, where I experienced firsthand the damage of Florida's regulations on higher education. There, faculty were concerned about the erosion of academic freedom and morale was low. Many faculty, like myself, actively sought employment elsewhere and units were having difficulty retaining faculty. In the year that I left FSU, [faculty turnover increased over 60%](#) compared to the average turnover from the previous five years. Units were also struggling to hire faculty for vacant positions. Additionally, the unstable and hostile academic environment makes it challenging to recruit excellent undergraduate and graduate students, especially out-of-state and international students who pay higher tuition rates. The brain drain means that the local economy loses skilled workers and tax revenue, and students lose access to innovative researchers and educators who can prepare them to be competitive in the job market. I strongly urge you to avoid steering Ohio in the same destructive path as Florida.

I ask you to consider my testimony and to vote NO on this harmful bill. HB 6 will stifle free speech and honest conversations. It will hurt Ohio's ability to recruit the best students and faculty, and it will motivate students and faculty to go elsewhere. HB 6 is bad for students, higher education, and Ohio. Let us focus our energy instead on making sure that Ohio continues to thrive and to have a world-class higher education system that trains the next generation of excellent leaders.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Sandy Wong