

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jennifer Scaggs. I am a parent of three children and a speech-language pathologist and I have earned three higher education degrees. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As a parent to a sophomore in high school, I am getting ready to begin the college search process for the first time. In considering all of the things we are looking for in a college, a quality education is our priority, first and foremost. I am also hoping that my child will choose a school that is within comfortable driving distance, and that means schools in Ohio should be an ideal choice. However, if this bill passes, we will be crossing off Ohio public schools from our list, and I know we won't be the only ones.

Ohio will likely ***lose top-tier professors*** if this bill passes. The post-tenure review policy will end meaningful tenure in Ohio, and public syllabus requirements will have dangerous implications for professors. Additionally, the inability to effectively teach all aspects of their subject matter and the pressure to avoid controversial topics will leave professors afraid to engage students in meaningful discussions. There is already a worsening shortage of professors nationwide, and this bill will only augment the impact that shortage has on Ohio.

The retrenchment policy could terminate classes and programs without a valid cause, leaving students without the classes or programs they need to graduate. This will likely ***leave students in debt and without a degree***, hurting Ohio's economy and lowering the graduation rate. As someone who struggled for years to pay off my student loans, I know how crippling student debt can be, but at least I had a degree to show for it.

Policies regarding controversial beliefs and DEI bans will ***prevent accurate teaching*** about historical events and ***prohibit the most important classroom discussions*** that can make a positive difference in our society, as a whole. They will also leave future professionals ***without important skills*** they need to do their job. As a speech-language pathologist, I need to know about language diversity in order to perform differential diagnosis on patients who may speak another language or specific dialect of English. I need to use a cultural lens to assess patients and families in order to provide effective home programming to people of varied socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. If I hadn't learned those skills, I would be unable to perform my job.

When I send my children to college, I want them to learn from people with varied view points, and to be able to discuss complex issues and develop critical thinking and analysis skills. I won't be spending my money on an inferior education at Ohio's public colleges if these changes take effect.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill that is going to severely harm public education in our state. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.



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