

**Testimony of Rowan Ratvasky**  
Before the House Higher Education Committee  
Representative Tom Young, Chair  
**March 11, 2025**

Good Morning. Thank you Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee for allowing me to testify today. My name is Rowan Ratvasky, and I am here to urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 1.

I am a proud lifelong resident of Columbus Ohio, and I am currently a student attending university in our great state. However, I am disgusted by the actions taken by your colleagues in the Senate, who were elected by the people of Ohio to help fellow Ohioans. You have not been elected to harm the rights of Ohio's faculty members. You have not been elected to destroy academic programs that elevate Ohio's students. My parents, who are both educators in our great state, taught me to love and help others. DEI is not something to be banned. DEI is a framework to promote the fair treatment of all people, and therefore the fair treatment of all Ohioans. Please do not ruin our great state by demolishing the academic freedoms of our public institutions. It has been my dream to attend graduate school at Ohio State University. However, if SB1 becomes law, I will be attending graduate school out of state. Please don't force me to leave my home in seek of a better education elsewhere when Ohio is where I want to stay.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony today. I urge you to take my testimony to heart and vote NO on this bill before it harms the education of Ohioans.