

Testimony of William Driscoll, Ph.D.  
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:

I am saddened and frustrated by SB1/HB6. Five years ago, I came from Oregon to Columbus to work as an instructor of English at a community college. I have always told my students how happy I was that I made this decision—mostly because I felt supported by my institution (and quite honestly) the State of Ohio itself. Seeing the Ohio State Legislature going out of its way to propose a bill aimed at caricaturing and demeaning educators is shameful.

My colleagues and I work daily to ensure our students succeed in our classes so they can achieve *their* dreams and goals. Mostly, this entails helping students with the nuts and bolts of writing—how to write an effective paragraph or prove a thesis. The exaggerated image of radical leftist professors indoctrinating students is a bad movie trope and one quite frankly that underestimates the kindness, empathy and strong value systems our kids bring to the classroom. The only thing more frustrating is that the sponsors of the bill know this too.

Still, if we are honest, this is an anti-worker bill dressed up in the trappings of “intellectual diversity.” The true purpose of this bill is to remove key professional protections aimed at creating nimble educational systems necessary to support all our students. In particular, the bill’s one-size-fits-all workload mandates mis-imagine faculty as simply teaching and grading. For instance, alongside teaching English classes, I spend a considerable amount of time each week ensuring that our CCP program provides a quality college education to over 3500 students in my department. A mandate like this will quite obviously, adversely impact the students that it claims to support. I don’t think that the intent is to cause *this* type of harm, but this is what happens when politicians legislate someone else’s job.

Ultimately, while legislation may come and go, the true trajectory of education is shaped not by policy but by personnel so if one wants to change that, they should get an application. As this bill has been written, argued, and grounded in bad faith, it will inevitably pass and—like all past censorship bills—it will inevitably fail, marking only the desperate bid of those fearing change.

For what it is worth, I will conclude by begging you to reject this hateful, cowardly, and demeaning bill.

Sincerely,

Will Driscoll, PhD.  
Assistant Professor of English