

Testimony of Lori Neben, BS, ND  
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:

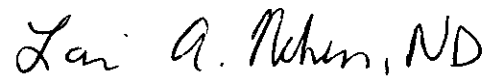
My name is Lori Neben, and I am a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine. I do not represent any institution but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen.

I strongly oppose SB-1/HB-6 due to the negative effects it will have on healthcare education in our state. When healthcare education is compromised, patients die as a result. Ohio colleges and universities currently have multiple opportunities for excellent education in a variety of healthcare careers, including seven medical schools throughout the state. In order to continue to be excellent education centers, these institutions **MUST** be able to discuss health disparities among different populations. Medicine is not the same for all individuals. Different populations show different symptom pictures and different ages, races, and sexes have different prevalences of diseases. Health disparities can inherently be uncomfortable to talk about and discussion of diversity in medical education would be outlawed with SB-1/HB-6. If healthcare practitioners are not taught these things, patient care will suffer as a result. Future doctors and nurses need to know that symptoms of a heart attack are often different in women than they are in men. Future doctors and nurses need to know what diseases are more common/less common in children/ adults/elderly. Future doctors and nurses need to know which diseases are more or less prevalent in white/Black/Asian/Latino individuals. Future doctors and nurses need to know which diseases are more likely in various disabled populations. Future doctors and nurses need to know which diseases are more/less common in different socioeconomic groups. And most importantly, they need to understand **WHY** these differences are there in these various groups, because when they understand **WHY**, they will truly learn and understand this information that can save multiple patient lives.

Banning tenure and limiting professors from choosing the best way to share their expertise with students would also put Ohio at a disadvantage compared to many other states. Many high quality professors would choose to work in other states and many high quality students

would choose to attend out of state schools. This would result in lower overall quality of our colleges and universities, leading to declining enrollment and financial losses for our institutions. This would negatively affect a variety of nonacademic programs, including college sports teams, which would be less desirable to star athletes, causing them to choose colleges out of state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Neben, ND". The script is cursive and fluid, with the initials "Lori" and "Neben" being more prominent than the middle initial "A".

Lori Neben, ND