

3/9/25

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today. My name is Greg Thompson. Both of my children attend a public university in Ohio. I am grateful they made the choice to stay in Ohio for their undergraduate (and, for one of them now, post-graduate) studies. However, SB 1 puts the quality of their education at risk, which pains me greatly. As a parent, I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

If SB 1 passes, Ohio won't just lose students—we'll be dealing a serious blow to our economy. Students have made it clear in op-eds and testimonies that they will leave Ohio or choose not to come here for college if this bill becomes law. That means fewer tuition dollars supporting our universities, fewer families visiting campuses, and a major decline in tourism dollars spent at local restaurants, hotels, and businesses. The ripple effect would be devastating—lost jobs, struggling institutions, and an Ohio that is less attractive to the very people we need to build its future.

As a father, I've loved being able to visit my kids at college, grabbing lunch or dinner together regularly. If they had gone out of state, I wouldn't have that chance. My kids are getting a top-tier education here in Ohio, and I want that to continue. I also want them to see this as a place worth staying after graduation—one with opportunity, strong communities, and a thriving economy. SB 1 puts that at risk. If we want a strong, competitive Ohio, we need to keep students, professors, and talent here—not drive them away.

A vote for SB 1 is a vote against Ohio's future. I urge you to consider my testimony and VOTE NO on SB 1.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.