

## **Testimony of Andrew Neutzling**

Before the House Higher Education Committee

Representative Tom Young, Chair

**March 11, 2025**

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. I cannot attend in person today, but I hope my words will still find the ears of the Committee members. My name is Andrew Neutzling, and I am here to urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 1.

I am a 2011 graduate of University of Cincinnati, 2018 graduate of The Ohio State University, and professional working in downtown Columbus. As a proud lifelong resident of Ohio, I would like to remind you of the values we hold dear as Ohioans.

As Ohioans, we value freedom of speech, intellectual freedom, high quality jobs for workers, and all the diverse types of people that make up our state. SB 1 is an attack on **all** of those values.

SB 1 proposes to restrict certain speech at universities while requiring other types of speech. In a democracy such as ours, the state has no business dictating what can and cannot be discussed within universities, or for any person for that matter. Freedom of speech and freedom of thought are values that Ohioans agree on.

This body frequently speaks about the importance of attracting high quality jobs to Ohio. Strong unions have been essential to negotiating good paying jobs and a high quality of life for

workers in Ohio, but SB 1 is an attack on unions and workers rights on university campuses. Ohioans agree that Ohioans deserve fair wages and workplaces.

Ohio has a messy history with racism, sexism, homophobia, and more - but Ohioans didn't accept that. Generations of Ohions fought tirelessly for a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive State for all people. SB 1 seeks to roll back decades of progress towards systems for fairness and justice Ohioans tirelessly built on university campuses. I want to say unequivocally that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ARE Ohio values. As an attack on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, SB 1 is an attack on Ohians core values of loving our neighbors and wanting justice for all.

SB 1 is an attack on Ohio values, and an attack on our values has no business in our state or at our Statehouse. We won't sit idly by as *our* Statehouse entertains threatens our rights and values.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony today. I ask you to take my testimony to heart and vote NO on this bill before it harms the education of Ohioans. I am happy to take any questions you may have.