

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: March 9, 2025

Name: James Sellers, PhD

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: Adjunct Asst Professor of Psychology, Retired Director, University Counseling Services

Address: 2332 Delaware Drive

City: Cleveland Heights State: OH Zip: 44106

Best Contact Telephone: 216.374.6231 Email: sellers.jes@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): SB 1

Specific Issue: Harm to Higher Education in Ohio

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 2 mins

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I oppose this bill because of the harm it will do to current college students and faculty in Ohio. I believe thousands of graduating students (and faculty) this year alone, will choose to leave Ohio to find work or grauate studies in states that respect their individualism and their unique personal identities. Ohio has fast become a caustic place to live because of the political dominace of one party rule - a place where minorities are bullied and intimidated by those in power, crushed under the weight of authoriarianism. Kindness and the the pursiut of happiness erode as absolute power corrupts our legislature.

Jes James Sellers, PhD

Licensed Psychologist Ohio 3529
2460 Fairmount Blvd., Suite 301
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

216.800.5370

web: drjessellers.com email: drjessellers@gmail.com

March 9, 2025

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

Thank you for accepting my written testimony.

My name is Dr. Jes James Sellers. I am a licensed psychologist and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology at Case Western Reserve University. I retired from CWRU in 2016 after serving 34 years as the Director of the University Counseling Services. It is from this perspective that I write to oppose SB 1 and HB 6 because I believe that the deleterious effects on students, faculty and staff will be great.

I believe that this bill will have the paradoxical effect of stifling honest discourse and will inflame misunderstandings and resentments toward those coming from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds as well as those with unique personal identities. I believe the negative effects from this bill on those who are socially anxious and more withdrawn can lead to protracted depression and even self-harm.

I also believe this bill will dampen the University's ability to keep graduates in Ohio and will negatively work against the University's ability to recruit exceptional young professionals who already have a perception that Ohio is not a welcoming state.

I urge you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this divisive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jes Sellers, PhD
Psychologist