

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: March 9, 2025

Name: Arthur Thomson

Are you representing: Yourself ☒ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): PFLAG leveland

Position/Title: Treasurer

Address: 2332 Delaware Drive

City: Cleveland Hts State: OH Zip: 44106

Best Contact Telephone: 216.502.7891 Email: thomson.art@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: Higher Education Bill harming students, faculty and staff

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? 1 min

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I am a member of PFLAG Cleveland and I, along with members of our chapter, are very concerned about the harm this bill will cause for students, faculty and staff in Ohio, who identify as patriotic Americans, and who have differing cultural, ethnic, religious or nonreligious, sexual and gender identities. Passage of this bill is sure to result in driving college students and talented faculty and staff away from the State of Ohio. Please do not allow this Higher Education Bill to move forward.

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 Art Thomson. I am a registered voter in Cuyahoga County.

I volunteer for PFLAG Cleveland, and I, along with members of our chapter, are very concerned about the harm this bill will cause to students, faculty and staff in Ohio, who identify as patriotic Americans with different cultural, ethnic, religious or nonreligious, sexual and/or gender identities. Passage of this bill is sure to result in driving college students and talented faculty and staff away from the state of Ohio at a time when Ohio is losing population, decade by decade, according to US Census data.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Thomson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Arthur Thomson
Cleveland Heights, Ohio