

Testimony of **Kathleen R. Brown**
Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Rep. Tom Young, Chair
March 10, 2025

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is **Kathleen Brown**, and I am a former employee of the University of Cincinnati where I served as Director of the Center for Community Engagement for thirteen years. I am now retired. I do not represent **the University of Cincinnati**, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen, one opposed to the passage of SB1.

This overreach by the Ohio Legislature into the daily operation of our stellar institutions of higher education is not only unnecessary but harmful.

The Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, Ohio University, Oberlin, Otterbein, University of Dayton, to name a few, have excellent reputations and draw students from all over the United States and fuel local economies. Why change the current successful formula for these beacons of pride and contributions to our world?

Please focus on the pressing problems in the lives of Ohioans today and stop creating more governmental intrusions. I ask you how are you going to monitor these new rules? Do you want to be in the business of monitoring higher education when in fact they are already governed by a Board of Trustees, many appointed by the Governor.

Reconsider the impact this will have on students, faculty and the administration of these outstanding institutions. Don't let fear lead the way. Stand for kindness and civility and more so, of democracy. They know what they are doing and they do it with the students and faculty always at the forefront of their actions. Please, leave it to them to do their jobs.

Sincerely,

Kathleen R. Brown