

**Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 1  
House Committee on Higher Education  
March 10, 2025**

**Tamu Alghali**

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and Members of the Higher Education Committee, Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Tamu Alghali and I'm writing to share my deep concerns as a Muslim student at The Ohio State University regarding Senate Bill 1. I believe this bill raises significant issues that could negatively impact the educational experience for students like me, particularly those from diverse backgrounds. As a Muslim student, I feel compelled to express my concerns about the impact this bill might have on the inclusivity of our academic environment.

This bill's restriction on mandatory Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs and training raises red flags for me as a student who values the importance of understanding and appreciating diverse perspectives. These programs play a crucial role in fostering an inclusive atmosphere, allowing students from various backgrounds, including those of different faiths, to feel heard and respected. Not to mention the very real impact it has in the professional path I hope to pursue, healthcare.

The prohibition on certain topics and training methods could limit our ability to explore the nuanced intersections of faith, identity, society and culture. This limitation threatens to hinder the open dialogue necessary for promoting mutual understanding and respect among students of different religious and cultural backgrounds. Alongside this, also creating safe places for diverse individuals and making sure that the graduates of public universities are not deficient in any form as long as it could've been prevented, this includes *proper* education of diverse experiences due to religion, race, socioeconomic statuses, etc.

While the bill claims to enhance higher education, the administrative burdens it introduces may divert resources away from academic programs. As a Muslim student, I am concerned that such administrative constraints might limit our ability to offer diverse courses that explore various cultural and religious perspectives, enriching the educational experience for all students.

Furthermore, the potential restrictions on academic relationships with China may inadvertently affect opportunities for cultural exchange, limiting our exposure to global perspectives and hindering the promotion of understanding among students from different parts of the world.

As someone committed to my education and the well-being of Ohio's student community, I worry that SB 1 could create an environment that is less welcoming for students of diverse backgrounds, including those of the Muslim faith. The potential shift of resources away from student learning towards bureaucratic compliance may inadvertently marginalize students who seek a more inclusive and diverse educational experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Tamu