

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify through this written letter. My name is Sonal Moratschel. I am a physician who works with children and transitional aged youth. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6. These thoughts below are mine alone and do not represent that of my employer.

Everyday I work with youth in Ohio who benefit from either current or future access to Ohio's fine colleges and universities. Many of my patients choose to stay within Ohio due to the lower costs and close proximity to their families. Their ability to have academic freedom within their years in higher education allows them to creatively achieve their personal goals and reach their highest potential. They have spoken to me that stifling this will lead them to consider alternative options for education, including many choosing to look outside of Ohio for their future careers. As a highly trained physician, who has trained exclusively in Ohio, this is extremely concerning to me for the future workforce.

As I know from my training, young adults are at the stage where developmentally they should be questioning difference educational and academic avenues. We should support and teach them how to come up with critiques in what is presented before them not stifling the options. This lack of critical thinking will only serve to hurt them in the future. We should not be dictating to them how they should think and should support institutions with academic diversity to allow them to come up with their own decisions, regardless of their political leanings.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. By voting no, you are supporting the ability for future generations of Ohioans to continue to cultivating learning and success.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to write you on this very important matter.

Sonal Moratschek, MD, MPH