

Testimony of Carla Toplak, Public Educator for 31 years in Ohio

Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee  
Education Committee  
Rep. Tom Young, Chair  
March 11, 2025

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Carla Toplak. I received my Masters Degree in Education from The Ohio State University. I have been a public school teacher for 31 years in Ohio and I am also the parent of two graduates of The Ohio State University.

I am writing to urge you to vote **NO** on Ohio's proposed Senate Bill 1/House Bill 6 in order to support Ohio's future.

Senate Bill 1 will have a major negative impact on Ohio's Economy. This bill will drive away current and prospective college students and professors from the state's higher education institutions. This will result in significant economic impact on the state! There will be lost tuition dollars, lost tourism dollars, and decreased patronizing of local businesses by college students, visiting family and university faculty. Professors will seek employment in other states which will result in additional funds lost through research grants. Countless jobs will be lost as a result of decreased student enrollment.

Unnecessary barriers to workforce development will be created by Senate Bill 1. Various fields like medicine, law, education, and social work, just to name a few, require training in diversity, equity, and inclusion practices for professional licensure, thereby reducing the number of qualified professionals in Ohio. This would be particularly damaging in fields already experiencing critical workforce shortages, such as healthcare and education and will lead to severe shortages across many additional professions.

Senate Bill 1 will also harm Ohio's ability to attract and retain businesses and workers. Many industries rely on a diverse workforce to remain competitive. Companies seeking to expand or relocate will look elsewhere to states that support inclusive hiring and training practices. This bill will deter students from pursuing higher education in Ohio which will reduce our future talent pool and drive skilled workers elsewhere.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive Senate Bill 1/House Bill 6 in order to allow continued economic growth for Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Carla Toplak