

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

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 Elizabeth Black. I am a life-long Ohio citizen, a parent of recent college graduates and a faculty member at Ohio State University. I do not represent Ohio State; I am submitting this testimony as a private citizen.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB1 and its companion bill HB6. This bill would increase college costs, reduce the value of a college education, and harm the economy of Ohio.

This bill has several elements that micromanage how universities perform already existing functions, such as faculty annual review and sharing of syllabi and course information. By adding these ineffective and inefficient micromanagement dictates, the administrative costs will dramatically increase. This will directly harm students by increasing the costs of tuition with no benefit to students. [Affordability is a key concern for students](#) (Inside Higher Ed, Aug 15, 2024).

Employers are reporting that college graduates have [big gaps in the areas of communication, critical thinking, and teamwork](#) (NACE Jobwire, Jan 15, 2025). They need new hires to be able to communicate with people of all backgrounds, consider multiple perspectives and think critically to find solutions to complex, multifaceted problems, and to work in teams that include members with different expertise and life experiences. SB1 would make Ohio's college graduates less prepared in these critical areas by banning discussion and consideration of divisive topics and all forms of diversity, equity and inclusion. This will directly hurt Ohio's economy and our major employers.

All elements of this bill are bad for Ohio - bad for the economy, bad for our students, and bad for our citizens. I ask the committee to consider my testimony and vote no on this destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Black