

SB 1

Tuesday, March 11, 9am

Ohio Statehouse, Room 017

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio and members of the House Workforce & Higher Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. My name is Kat Scaglione, and I am a parent and lifelong Ohioan. Today I would like to voice my strong opposition to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

This legislation will have a widespread and harmful impact on educators, students and the economy in our state.

This bill makes it abundantly clear that the pursuit of knowledge, critical thinking and worldliness are somehow unwelcome in our classrooms. It undermines educational independence, and by cutting out DEI limits the ability and access individuals have to grow in community with individuals of different lived experiences. Those things are often labeled as being divisive, but history has shown that when people better understand each other they are better able to come together.

From a teaching standpoint, the chaotic directives on what is and isn't acceptable place an unfair burden on educators. How are educators supposed to help students learn to engage in current events in our state or even the world? How can students learn to be good researchers and prioritize the facts when educators have their hands tied? Can educators really do their job and be their best if we refuse to put our faith in their abilities? That is not the future of education I want for my children.

We are already seeing a shift. The economy in Ohio is going to see a big change as students leave our universities, out of state students choose not to seek a college experience here and families choose to move away because of what education could potentially become.

I urge you to vote no on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time.