

Testimony of Elizabeth McCullough, Ph.D.
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:

My name is Elizabeth McCullough, and I am an academic advisor and educator at The Ohio State University. I do not represent The Ohio State University; rather, I am submitting testimony as a private citizen. I urge you to oppose HB 6/SB 1, which would do substantial damage to the reputation and value of higher education within our state, and is not in the best interest of Ohio's students or residents.

I am not originally from Ohio. I moved hundreds of miles to Columbus in 2007 to attend graduate school at The Ohio State University. After gaining professional experience elsewhere, I moved thousands of miles back to Columbus in 2022 for my current role in advising and teaching students at The Ohio State University. I have chosen this institution over others multiple times because I believe fiercely in the quality and integrity of the education it provides. I emphatically would have avoided it, and other opportunities in Ohio, if this bill had been in place at the time of each of those choices.

I am not unique. The major for which I advise is not commonly offered by universities, and most students admitted to my program are from outside the state. In my academic advising role, I regularly talk with prospective students and their families about The Ohio State University experience as they are choosing from among multiple offers of admission. I strongly suspect that many potential students would not choose The Ohio State University, or others in Ohio, if this bill were enacted. An education that cannot address controversial issues would be viewed as incomplete and uncompetitive.

Current students and educators have voiced clear opposition to this bill. Please consider the overwhelming consensus from those involved directly in education, and oppose HB 6/SB 1.