

Testimony of Jenny Deller  
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 Jenny Deller. I am a resident of Columbus Ohio and submitting testimony as a private citizen. I'm writing today to voice my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1.

My father was the first person in his family to attend college—at a public university—and eventually became a professor at a public university in Illinois. I am a Columbus business owner who would not be where I am without my parents' college education and my own bachelor's degree. I know from experience how important it is to have access to a high-quality, affordable, public higher education. It prepares young people from all backgrounds to think for themselves, navigate an increasingly complex world, and secure their financial future.

This is why I am deeply concerned that SB 1 will undermine the security of all Ohioans. The bill is vaguely defined, un-researched, and invents problems that don't actually exist on Ohio's campuses. Senator Cirino's notion of indoctrination is a red herring that has been fabricated to give the state political control over institutions of higher learning. University instruction is already designed to be factual and help students think for themselves. The state should leave teaching up to the experts and not engage in censorship. It's dangerous and un-American.

Passing this bill would also be a disaster for Ohio's economy. Ohio would lose students, professors, staff, tuition dollars, tourism dollars, and countless jobs—not to mention the research and innovation generated at these institutions that benefit not just our state, but the entire country. Ohio industries like healthcare, technology, law, media services and countless others that rely on our colleges and universities for a workforce pipeline will suffer. Governor DeWine's efforts to bring more young people to the state would be meaningless.

I ask that you consider my testimony and vote no on this destructive and widely unpopular bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.