

**Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 1
Workforce and Higher Education Committee
3/9/2025**

Izzy Glauser, University of Cincinnati Student

Chair Tom Young, Vice Chair Adam Mathews, Ranking Member Joe Miller, and members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today. My name is Izzy Glauser (she/her), and I am a student at the University of Cincinnati, deeply engaged in our campus community. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1, particularly due to its provisions that seek to eliminate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs within Ohio's public universities.

At the University of Cincinnati (UC), DEI initiatives are integral to our identity. They foster an environment where students from diverse backgrounds feel valued and supported, enriching our educational experiences. Personally, these programs have provided me with opportunities to engage in dialogues that broaden my perspectives and prepare me for a diverse workforce. University of Cincinnati's dedication to DEI and embracing diverse perspectives is one of the main reasons I chose to go to school here. If not UC, I probably would have chosen to go to another city in a different state.

Eliminating DEI programs would not only diminish the quality of education at institutions like UC but also hinder Ohio's competitiveness. Our universities serve as places for talent and innovation, attracting businesses seeking a diverse and skilled workforce. Removing DEI initiatives risks driving away students, faculty, and critical business partnerships.

Historically, Ohio has been a beacon of progress and influence. By upholding DEI programs, we continue this legacy, demonstrating our commitment to inclusivity and excellence. DEI is not a crime; it is a cornerstone of a thriving educational environment.

I urge you to consider the detrimental impact that Senate Bill 1 would have on students, universities, and the broader community. Please oppose this bill to ensure that Ohio's higher education system remains inclusive and competitive.

Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions.