

Olivia Krolczyk - SB 1 Testimony, Wednesday, March 19th, 2025

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

Members of the Ohio Senate, I'm here not just as a voice for myself, but for every student who's been silenced, shamed, or attacked for daring to speak the truth. At the University of Cincinnati, I faced betrayal because of DEI. To graduate as a Chemistry major, I was forced to take a required DEI course—my options? “LGBTQ Activism,” “Queer Studies,” and “Women's Gender Studies.” None had relevance to my degree. I paid thousands to be indoctrinated in Gender Studies, rather than mastering chemistry. This isn't education—it's a shakedown, undermining the system meant to prepare us for the real world. In that class, I was failed, called transphobic, hateful, and bigoted for refusing to bend to DEI ideology. I was marked an outcast, my academic future threatened, just for challenging required DEI courses in Ohio.

Across the nation, DEI turns universities into hostile zones. At the University of Washington, I was held hostage—doors blocked, fire alarms pulled, windows smashed—for speaking out against its infiltration in education. These aren't isolated incidents; they're attacks on students' rights to exist as thinkers, speakers, and people. Ohio inches closer to Washington's hostility everyday that we allow DEI to fester. SB 1 is our stand—it must protect free expression and hold universities accountable for silencing students.

Pass SB 1 for the students told their voices don't matter, for those afraid to stand up. Pass it because education should challenge us, not crush us. Ohio students shouldn't endure what I did—silenced, shamed, or scared off campus for their beliefs. Forcing me to pay for irrelevant ideology instead of real learning isn't just unfair—it's theft of opportunity. SB 1 is more than policy; it's a promise no one else will face this betrayal.

Without SB 1, we risk a generation taught to fear their voices, universities churning out echoes instead of innovators. This bill ensures our schools remain places of growth, not suppression—free from indoctrination, rooted in autonomy. Pass SB 1 for Ohio's students, for their right to an education that empowers, not exploits. I've seen the cost of its absence; you can secure its presence. Act now.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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