



CHRISTIAN BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Ohio's Christian Chamber of Commerce

To: Chair Rep. Young
Vice Chair Rep. Ritter
Ranking Member Rep. Brown-Piccolantonio
House Workforce and Education Committee
From: Monty Lobb
Executive Director
Christian Business Partnership

Re: Support for

Good afternoon, Chairman Young, Vice Chair. Ritter, Ranking Member Brown-Piccolantonio, and members of the House Education and Workforce Development Committee. My name is Monty Lobb, the new Executive Director of the Christian Business Partnership, a division of the Center for Christian Virtue, and I'm here to give proponent testimony for .

As the leader of an organization with over 300 businesses in Ohio, I'm quickly finding out that my members want and need a workforce that is quite capable of meeting the character and competency expectations of their internal and external stakeholders. At the heart of developing young people to seamlessly flow into the dynamic Ohio economic workplace is the hiring authority's desire to witness and consistently count on critical thinking, problem solving and ethical decision making in Generation Z students.

As a college professor for over the past 17 years (up until 12/31/24) at three Ohio universities, teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level, in person and online, instructing business, law and government courses, employers have told me repeatedly they cannot compromise on hiring new employees if they do not have the requisite level of critical thinking, problem solving and ethical decision making skills. For that reason, primarily, I applaud HB6 in its desire to rid the public university and college setting of DEI indoctrination. In no way from the lens of a college professor does DEI training help develop and nurture those three skill sets prospective employers seek.

As a Professor of Government, and with my background as an attorney, I taught in a Socratic fashion instead of lecturing. This format allowed for critical thinking because I intellectually and logically challenged my students to think for themselves and defend their rationale. DEI indoctrination, which says in part everyone involved deserves and is entitled to the same result regardless of effort, is based on a wrong and dangerous philosophy. It's a philosophy that is nowhere near the mainstream of American political culture which



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believes in equal opportunity for all but not a guarantee of equal results. The stories are countless whereby our universities do not foster and encourage an academic environment that is objective and permits a diversity of opinions. Ohio universities and colleges, spending over \$100 million of OUR taxpayer monies in the last year on DEI staff, training and other resources, are not thinking about what's best for the preparation of college students for the Ohio workforce, but have intentionally pursued an agenda that wastes time, resources, and our tax dollars.

In a day and age when Ohio's economy ranks 35th in economic performance and 20th in economic outlook according to the American Legislative Exchange Council and Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index, even though we are the seventh largest state by population, should be a clear signal to all that something is wrong. As this Body takes serious the charge to steward public monies and confidence thereby gaining the trust of Ohioans, legislation that promotes student development into workforce development, effectively reduces wasteful spending, and holds governmental institutions accountable for compliance is always a welcomed relief. For these reasons concerning DEI, let alone the other components of the bill, the Christian Business Partnership supports . I would be happy to entertain any questions at this time.

