

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 1.

My name is Robert Tandy and I am a Junior at Miami University majoring in political science and strategic communication. I am here today to voice my support for Senate Bill 1 because it will restore fairness, accountability, and intellectual diversity to our states higher education system.

As a student, I have witnessed firsthand how universities have prioritized political activism over real education. Too often DEI initiatives create an environment where students feel pressured to conform to one ideology rather than engage in open, honest debate. This is not what college should be about. College should be a place where students hone their critical thinking skills, and can challenge their peers through spirited debate and discussion. Our universities should be places of **free thought**, where students are encouraged to challenge ideas, not be told what to think.

This bill ensures that all students—regardless of their background or beliefs—are treated as individuals, not as members of a group identity. By promoting intellectual diversity and removing ideological litmus tests from hiring and admissions, making sure that merit and academic excellence—not political affiliation—determine success.

This bill guarantees that every student is recognized for their individual merit and accomplishments, rather than being defined into groups that have no bearing on who you are.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 1. Thank you for your time and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Additional Information:

When answering a question that a member of the committee asks:

Through the Chair to the Representative... (then proceed with their answer)