

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 Gabriel Armentrout and I am a student at Miami University.

Throughout the past few years and more, we have heard of the political bias in professors and staff employed at many universities across Ohio. According to statistics published by the national association of scholars, professors identifying as liberal outnumber those identifying as conservative 9 to 1. It is no surprise then that a type of consensus has begun to develop within the classroom and on many campuses of a default acceptance of one political ideology as truth. I and many other college students can attest to experiencing or having heard stories of professors denying thoughts outside of their own ideology, publicly demeaning political opponents, and penalizing student's disagreement with low test scores. Thankfully, this is not a problem at Miami University to the degree it is at other colleges, but there have still been examples of it. SB 1's provisions for ensuring intellectual diversity on campus will help to build a community of multiple viewpoints to make Ohio a great state.

Additionally, I have personally borne witness to the wasteful spending on DEI programs at Miami University. As a member of the student government there, I saw thousands of dollars being spent on DEI events that very few attended besides those who were required to be there, namely us. I am sure this dynamic is seen across DEI events on campus and at other universities, with programs appealing only to a very small few being funded by the university to significant levels and being required for students. This also harms intellectual diversity, as DEI programs are typically based around a specific political ideology. SB 1 will help end this waste of time and money.

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)