

**House Bill 698
Nick Kawa
Opponent Testimony
House Workforce and Higher Education Committee**

May 12, 2026

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Abdullahi, and Members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Nick Kawa, and I am an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the Ohio State University. I am testifying in opposition to HB 698. Today, I am not speaking on behalf of OSU but rather as a private citizen.

It's ironic the state legislators who claim to fight government bloat have worked to increase bureaucratic red tape and place greater administrative burden on the state's public universities. This is what SB1 has done and HB698 will only make it worse. Instead of making public universities more efficient, SB1 has created more paper trails, more forms to file, more compliance rules, and more administrative tasks that do nothing to enhance the quality of Ohioans' education. Instead SB1 and its stepchild HB698 just waste the time of departmental managers, university staff, and department chairs. The tragedy is that money, time, and effort that should be dedicated to strengthening student learning is being directed to programs that are the outcome of needless government overreach.

Sincerely,
Nick Kawa, PhD