

**Katharine's Testimony Against the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act Senate Higher
Education Committee
2/10/25**

**Katharine Hollington
Ohio Student**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Katharine Hollington. I am a fourth-year student at Ohio State majoring in Psychology with minors in Social Justice Advocacy & Public Policy as well as Environmental Science. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Some of the most valuable classes and experiences I have had on Ohio State's campus during my four years as a student have been in classrooms and spaces where my perspective is strengthened through a diverse, equitable, and inclusive lens. As I look to my future academic plans, they will unfortunately not include Ohio Universities if this bill is passed. I do not feel comfortable learning in an environment that promotes university censorship and devalues community. I am also deeply concerned with living and working under a government that oppresses workers rights through strike bans and prohibiting collective bargaining for university faculty.

None of my professors or teachers have ever shared their political affiliation or indoctrinated me, but they are starting to withhold information, perspectives, and educational opportunities in fear of backlash from the current political state that we live under. As a psychology major I have learned that representation matters. By erasing community groups and representation at the university level, students are more likely to feel alone and are less likely to add positively to their community. As an Environmental Science student, I cannot imagine a classroom setting where climate science is not upheld. As a social justice advocacy and public policy student, I fear that this critical education will be erased due to fear. How are we supposed to learn from faculty who are scared to speak?

In our universities at this time, people have options in how they want to engage, through SB1 student will be stripped of these options and will be forced to live in an unrepresentative homogenous landscape that disincentivizes any sort of community and passion. I am concerned that even though there is adamant opposition from the majority of students, workers, professors, families, and people across both political parties, that we will not be listened to. We are veering far from a representational government towards one with an interest in seemingly only power and control. Please prove my concerns wrong and help our institutions uphold the First Amendment by considering the constitutionality and adverse consequences of this bill.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I will now take any questions you may have.