

Testimony of Rachael Anneke Frush Holt, Ph.D., CCC-A
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair
February 9, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Rachael Holt, and I am a professor of Speech and Hearing Science at The Ohio State University, where I have taught for almost 12 years. I do not represent The Ohio State University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1. I have many concerns about this bill but will focus on three here. The first is the administrative redundancy contained in SB1. Universities in Ohio have successfully carried out evaluations of tenure, post-tenure, and retrenchment for decades. There is simply no reason need to change these successful polices to a one-size-fits-all approach that will not work for institutions that all function differently, have different student bodies, are of different sizes, and have different academic units. The second concern I have is the controversial beliefs portion of the bill, which will require faculty to allow or even require teaching false information because some people in society believe it to be true. As a scientist and professor, part of my job to ensure that I convey facts as they are currently known; not beliefs. While there should always be room for questions, criticism, and debate, there is not room for fabrication or manipulation of information. My final concern is the wiping out of equity, inclusion, and diversity efforts on college campuses. Public universities and colleges are meant to serve all people in Ohio. Serving them means more than just letting them pay tuition. It means making them welcome and making sure they feel a part of the institution. It means making sure everyone's perspective is included that we can novelly solve problems we have never solved before. Different perspectives help us solve problems faster and more efficiently. I urge you to oppose this bill. Nothing in it will improve higher education. Thank you for your time.