

Testimony of Laura L. Menard, Ph.D., J.D.  
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee  
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair  
February 10, 2025

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

My name is Laura Menard, and I am an adjunct professor of English at Bowling Green State University and University of Cincinnati. I do not represent Bowling Green State University and University of Cincinnati but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

**I am deeply concerned that there is another attempt in the legislature to pass a new version of SB 83: "The Higher Education Destruction Act," despite the massive public opposition.**

**SB 1/HB 6 are the epitome of big government overreach. These bills would impose unprecedented levels of political interference and unnecessary micromanagement on Ohio's colleges and universities.** They would severely undermine the integrity of our higher education system. This is why the bill faced strong bipartisan legislative opposition in the last session and failed to advance. **This is not a partisan issue.**

SB 1/HB 6 are a series of contradictions that claim to promote "intellectual diversity" while simultaneously attempting to legislate the manner in which certain topics can be addressed and the way in which professors manage their classrooms. Article I, Section 11 of the Ohio Constitution states, "Every citizen may freely speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of the right; and no law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech, or of the press." **These mandates violate of our First Amendment Right to Free Speech under the U.S. Constitution and the Ohio Constitution.**

The bill also attacks workers' rights by attempting to prohibit fundamental collective bargaining subjects and the right to strike. These provisions are a thinly veiled attempt to weaken the voices of faculty, who have every right to advocate for fair working conditions, which are the students' learning conditions. **Ohioans have made it clear that we support collective bargaining rights.**

Respectfully, I ask that you reject these bills, which could do real, irreversible damage to Ohio higher education.

Laura L. Menard, Ph.D., J.D.