

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

Thank you for reading my testimony today. My name is Kaohtaw Raman. I am a first year in the College of Arts and Sciences at The Ohio State University. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6. I am currently majoring in international studies, specializing in international relations and diplomacy. I am also minoring in political science. I am interested in a career as a foreign service diplomat. Where I would be able to learn and experience the world of international affairs while representing the US.

I am the daughter of refugees who escaped Myanmar. My father protested the violent military regime and was forced to leave his family back home in order to live. His actions have heavily inspired me to take action when injustice is occurring. I grew up in low income neighborhoods throughout my life, along with attending public school in Akron, Ohio. I see the impact of education. It is very important for the development of children. This bill's attack on diversity, equity and inclusion would heavily prevent students from reaching their highest potential. We as students should understand and know the truth. Kids like me in underprivileged areas deserve quality education and equality. This bill will weaken the education quality of citizens in Ohio. This bill will force teachers to teach both sides of history. This will lead to a battleground of shifting ideologies. Education should not be based on opinion but rather facts. Not only does it negatively impact students but also the faculty. Stopping faculty from unionizing will only oppress the workers. That goes against the fundamental values of this country. We were built to resist the oppressors and fight for freedom.

I urge you to consider the future of our students, faculty and community members and please reject this bill.