



## HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 02-10-2025

Name: Georg Weber, Professor at UC

Address: 201 Doublegate Drive, Milford, OH 45150

Telephone: 513-384-0761

Organization Representing: (self)

Testifying on Bill Number: SB #1

Testimony: ☐ Verbal ☒ Written ☐ Both

Testifying As: ☐ Proponent ☒ Opponent ☐ Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Special Requests: profoundly rereview the societal benefits of the tenure system at Ohio universities

assess the dangers to be imposed compromising the tenure system with SB #1

The concept of tenure has long been embraced by universities (it was introduced into American universities in the early 1900s). It has been recognized as enabling scholarly activity without societal pressure or peer-imposed bias. The academic freedom derived from the tenure system has been a cornerstone to abundant progress that would not have been possible without it.

Tenure status is not an entitlement. It is earned through the merit of academic accomplishment and bestowed after review by a faculty committee, the unit head (Dean), and the Provost. Through this vetting, the tenure system sets institutes of higher education apart from corporate organizations.

While the desire to replace individuals with “burnout” is supportable, without tenure protection many productive colleagues will feel incentivized to leave Ohio. Equally important, the possibility of highly competent faculty losing their positions on the grounds of personality conflicts will be of genuine concern.