

SB1 Testimony

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 Joshua Chester. I am a screen printer that resides. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I grew up in Cleveland my entire life and I have been a screen printer for almost 8 years. Through my job I have seen personally how being a diverse, equitable, and inclusive job has allowed the company I work for to flourish in the market. Being diverse, equitable, and inclusive allows all people a seat at the table regardless of race or gender so that they can provide their perspectives which allows a company to grow and not remain stagnant, that also goes for Colleges & Universities.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is what has helped this country become the great country that it is. This bill is clearly a move that is mainly going to effect poor students and teachers all over the state. It won't allow students to have equal and equitable access to an education and will mainly effect black and brown communities as well as poor rural communities. Not only that, it polices universities and sets draconian measures that doesn't seem like freedom to me.

Trying to ban the teaching of "controversial topics" is really just trying to rewrite history. This bill would essentially try to re-write the holocaust and civil rights movement! It's more than just getting rid of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It's a power grab by the wealthy to make sure the poor stay poor and the wealthy keep getting wealthier.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful, extremist, classist, and frankly racist bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.