

Testimony of John G. Holden, PhD
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina D. Roegner, Chair
February 6, 2025

Chair & Co-Chairs Roegner & Cirino and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is John G. Holden, and I am an associate professor of Psychology at the University of Cincinnati, where I have taught for 13 years. I do not represent the University of Cincinnati but rather I am writing as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

About \$69 billion in economic activity is attributed to Ohio's state Universities. Global technological and economic change is accelerating. Ohio requires a robust, flexible economy and a well-educated work-ready workforce. Stable, highly productive universities are crucial for meeting and responding to the demands of change. Ohio families, and families around the world routinely send students to Ohio for a rigorous education. This gives Ohio organizations a huge edge in talent recruitment and economic growth. It reliably brings income for tuition, housing, and countless other uses into the state.

An important reason Ohio, and many other US Universities, are so innovative and productive are the job protections and worker rights that are encoded in collective bargaining, the right to strike, and tenure. Our workload, tenure, and promotion procedures are rigorous, and long proven. All our faculty are continually assessed and mentored with an eye toward innovation and productivity.

Many other countries, such as China, India, Russia, and Turkey have universities that rely on the weak job protections and the State curriculum and productivity interference proposed in SB 1. These Universities are well recognized as major sources of fake science and they are not known as economic drivers, or world-wide education destinations. In Texas, laws like SB 1 already undermined the viability of UT Austin in the eyes of many faculty and applicants.

Finally, the proposal in SB 1 to publish all syllabi from all programs and courses originating from the Ohio's institutions on the internet is a vast, inexplicable, but free and wholesale distribution of Ohio instructor's and the State's intellectual property. It would allow any entity or agent, foreign or domestic, belligerent or benign, instant and complete access to download the materials, methods, and organization of countless credential and degree programs, medical, scientific, engineering - everything. Essentially, SB 1 enables anyone in the world to freely clone Ohio's higher education system. Our alumni will be rightfully furious if the legislature gives away so much knowledge they paid for.

For these and other reasons, I am completely opposed SB 1, and the related bill HB 1. I urge you to oppose the SB 1 plans to undermine and dismantle Ohio higher education. Ultimately, it will undermine Ohio's economy. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.