

Testimony of **Namiko Kunimoto, Ph.D.**
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair
February 8, 2025

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

My name is Namiko Kunimoto and I am a professor of History of Art at Ohio State University, where I have taught for ten years. I do not represent Ohio State, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work is to support basic human rights. Why does this bill not support basic human rights? Banning the right to strike is wrong. Educators have a right to be protected.

Your bill says it is against “segregation,” yet by banning DEI work, you are supporting institutional racism and the intellectual segregation it creates. Critical thinking, or “intellectual diversity” has always been at the heart of my pedagogy, and your bill reveals that you do not have enough knowledge about how university’s actually function to make decisions about it. Finally, Ohio State University is at the core of Ohio’s economy and reputation. Damage to this university will affect even the privileged members of society, who this bill prioritizes.