

Opposition to SB1

2/7/2025

Dear Chair: Kristina Roegner, Vice Chair: Jerry Cirino, Ranking Minority Member: Catherine Ingram, Member: Kyle Koehler, Member: Bill Reineke: Member: Casey Weinstein:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jodi Hupp, and I am a professor of Communication Studies. I spend my days educating students on how to improve their interpersonal communication skills and work with them on how to speak effectively in public. Each day is committed to helping my students learn critical thinking skills when it comes to their personal and professional lives. Communication skills are vital to success in the workforce, and many of my students go on to be professionals in the healthcare field, in educational classrooms, in business organizations, in community organizations, and even in the areas of law and politics, to name a few. I am proud of the work that I do and the success of my students. Perhaps you remember one of your favorite professors and some of the wisdom that they brought into your lives? I know that I certainly have, and I am so grateful for those experiences.

I must share with you one of the most amazing experiences that I have had in the decades that I have been teaching. I remember teaching an Interpersonal Communication class where we discuss a multitude of topics (perception, self, nonverbal communication, intercultural communication, conflicts resolution skills, workplace communication) to help students engage in meaningful, purposeful, and professional communication. Unbelievably, I had an 80-year-old student tell me how my class changed her life. Can you imagine having the honor of teaching elderly students the value of communication skills, and it be life-changing? That was an impactful moment for me, and one that I fear will soon go away due to SB1. I have students thank me years after they graduated, as they recognized the value that my classes had on them and their personal and professional successes. It is heartwarming and wonderful to hear how my efforts are being appreciated rather than attacked.

SB1 is an attack on higher education, and the impacts in student learning will be detrimental. Trying to impose these restrictions will disrupt student learning and will deplete our funding and resources for valuable and needed classroom instruction. In addition, SB1 will affect my workload and working conditions, which I will have no voice to express due to SB1 eliminating our collective bargaining rights, ultimately affecting the students' learning. I work with students every day, and cannot imagine taking away their educational opportunities, and not only does opposition to SB1 fight for my rights, but it also fights for student rights as well.

I am asking you to please consider this testimonial and heed to the caution of so many higher education professionals, as SB1 is not in the best interest of the students or the state.

Regards,

Jodi Hupp

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