

Dear 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 Sarah Black, and I am a licensed clinical psychologist and assistant professor of psychological sciences at Kent State University. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1.

The study and practice of psychological science requires an open and unbiased mind. We must continually question comfortable and familiar ideas, tear down our professional heroes, and admit when we are wrong. We also need to hear all voices as we pursue truth. My work addresses parenting challenges and aims to provide resources for this nation's many taxed parents. As such, it is critical that I hear the voices not only of parents in my demographic, but also those parents who have disparate experiences to mine. It is also critically important that my research team and colleagues bear similarities to the people we aim to assist.

As faculty members, we don't aim to produce liberal thinkers – we aim to produce competent thinkers. Faculty need academic freedom to push students to their intellectual bounds and generate new knowledge that benefits our *entire* society.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.