

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to send my testimony. My name is Suzanne Taber. I am a parent of a high school junior and a 6th grader currently attending the Kenston schools. I hold a bachelor's and master's degree from two Ohio universities: Mount Union and the University of Akron. I have worked in education as well as the non-profit sector for most of my career. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Growing up in a small community, I was excited for the opportunity to be the first one in my family to attend college. I came from a town that was a slice of rural America. We had plenty of family farms but also the benefit of Hiram College in our community. Our district was working class citizens who valued education. While idyllic-sounding, this community was not a reflection of the larger world around us.

My college experience was one that I cherished. I met people from all over Ohio and surrounding states as well as friends from Fiji, Japan, and Tahiti. This exposure was formative for me. I loved having in-depth conversations about history, current events, philosophy, and more with both professors and friends bringing diverse backgrounds and differing perspectives. I was able to take classes that suited my interests. While some classes were required, I was able to forge my own path to build an educational experience that challenged me and my views of the world.

This college experience prepared me well for my married life. My husband and I have lived all over our beautiful country. Each place has introduced us to different cultures, varying perspectives, and diverse ways of life. I was able to have an open mind, to appreciate differences, and discover the beauty of the people in each area. My world became limitless!

I am opposed to SB1 and HB6 because it seeks to dictate the course of my children's educations. It creates an environment where their world becomes smaller, not bigger. It doesn't provide a space for them to develop a realistic world view. Our government should not be limiting the interests of our brightest and best young minds. As a parent who wants

her daughters to reach for the stars, I cannot give my children the Ohio school experience that I had should this bill pass. We will take our tuition dollars elsewhere.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this overreaching and destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Suzanne Taber

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