

Chairman Roegner, vice chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate committee:

My name is Redeat Getachew. I am a first-generation 2nd year student at The Ohio State University studying Political Science. I am an out of state student from our country's capital, District of Columbia. I write this testimony to state my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1 and to implore you to not pass it.

I was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and when I was six, my parents made the brave decision to move to America in search of the bountiful resources and bright future the US offers. Growing up, my parents always emphasized the importance of education. They encouraged me to join clubs, participate and be curious in and outside of the classroom and take the opportunity they have given me to build myself a successful and happy future. These lessons were what I had in mind when I began looking for colleges to apply to. I applied to 13 schools but none of them had captured my interest and awe like the way The Ohio State University did.

OSU captured my attention from the first time I viewed the online tour available on its website. I had never attended a big school and OSU's size was captivating. I was excited at the prospect of meeting so many people from diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, the energy from the online tour was infectious and I could not wait to attend a school with an overwhelming amount of spirit.

If OSU was under the restrictive, and harmful policies from Senate Bill 1, I would not have applied to OSU.

Senate Bill 1 takes away the diversity of thought, allows for the censorship of real facts while entertaining conspiracy theories, and threatens the rights Professors have of voicing their own opinions. As an out of state student, I am paying the increased expenses to attend OSU, on top of the travel costs from DC to Columbus. I make this increased tuition and pay the expenses because I believe the education that is offered at OSU is worth it. Senate Bill 1 threatens this belief, and I worry for the countless students who will be deterred from applying because of this bill. Not only will out-of-state students be discouraged from applying but so will in-state students who will look elsewhere for higher education.

Ohio grows and benefits when its citizens receive higher education in-state and Senate Bill 1 threatens its' future. When voting, think of Ohio's future and the countless students that will be deterred from applying because of this bill.

Thank you.