

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

Thank you for giving me the time to testify today. My name is Toryn Hudson. I am a student from central Ohio attending Kent State University as a junior Applied Communications major with minors in Political Science and Non-Profit Studies. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I am the first person in my family to attend college in over 100 years. Most previous generations were not even able to earn their high school diploma. I have put up an enormous fight to get to where I am today, and I could not have made it this far without Kent State's Student Accessibility Services, which would be affected by this bill.

At the beginning of my second semester at Kent State, I was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder. Navigating this new chapter of my life whilst nearly every hour of every day was overtaken by severe mental health challenges was one of the hardest situations I have had to carry myself through in my then eighteen years of living. Kent State's Student Accessibility Services stepped in to assist. SAS access advisors helped me find accommodations that worked for me both in and outside of the classroom, allowing me to continue my education while I also learned to live within my new normal.

Next, I would like to speak about my bright minded 12-year-old brother, Jaxson. Jaxson is diagnosed with autism, and he faces battles both in and outside of the classroom due to this. However, he has carried a 4.0 GPA for his entire academic career thus far, including advanced placement classes. He loves to learn, and he will grow up to be a productive, knowledgeable member of society. It would deeply hurt me to see his potential obstructed by simple hindrances that can be fixed with a simple accommodation like single housing or frequent breaks during exams.

DEI programs, including SAS, are crucial to the development of the society that everyone in this room is a part of. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

