

Senator Kristina Roegner,

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1/House Bill 6. I believe this bill is harmful to higher education and to Ohio in general. Several of the tenants of this bill are worrying, but I have the most opposition to the “Controversial Beliefs or Policies” tenant. I suppose it could be interpreted that we want faculty to respect the beliefs of students, however, what this is really putting forth is that faculty will have to treat student opinions as facts. I say this because one of the “controversial beliefs” in the bill is “climate policies”. Are we suggesting that an earth science or geography professor must humor a student who does not believe climate change is real? Climate change is not an opinion topic – it is something backed up by scientific research and facts. I believe this bill is the beginning of a slippery slope towards even more misinformation, a problem that is rampant in Ohio and in the US right now. Higher Education is a place where students learn to think critically and tying the hands of faculty like this prohibits critical thought and discussion. I believe this will also lose Ohio money, educated citizens, and respect. When students are looking at colleges, especially students who are thinking of going out of state, I believe bills like this will make Ohio less appealing. It makes us look backwards and fearful. It is a terrible bill, and I am strongly against it.

Thank you for your time.

Elizabeth McGinnis